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County Council of Salop.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health

1948

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

SHREWSBURY,
JUNE, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1948 on the Health Services of the County.

The year will be remembered as that in which the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, and must, therefore, be regarded as one of transition. There were no revolutionary changes in the actual services previously provided by the County Council, but Part III of the Act made it obligatory on the Council as a Local Health Authority to formulate schemes for the provision of certain Services, many of which had hitherto been largely discretionary. These schemes, the effect of which will be increasingly felt with the passage of time, became operative on 5th July necessitated much detailed preliminary planning. They are dealt with in the body of the Report, and the fact that the administrative changes involved did not greatly affect existing services is attributable in large measure to the stage of development to which they had attained on "the appointed day."

Perhaps the most fundamental change, in so far as this County is concerned, was the taking over by the County Council of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in the Borough of Shrewsbury. These Services have been absorbed by the County Council in their Scheme for the Care of Mothers and Young Children, but the loss of these functions cannot have been other than a matter of much regret to the Borough Council and the officials concerned.

Reference ought also to be made to the taking over from the Shropshire Nursing Association of the Home Nursing and Midwifery Services and their direct administration by the County Council. Like so many of our social services, they were originally the outcome of voluntary effort, and were gradually extended by the Association until, by the time of the passing of the Midwives Act, 1936, they had already covered the whole of the County. It is, therefore, fitting that the work of those by whom these Services were initiated and developed should at this stage be recognised and remembered.

Time will be required to implement the various schemes which the County Council have formulated as part of the National Health Service in this County, but progress is being made and they will be more fully reported upon in my next Annual Report which is now in course of preparation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,

COLLEGE HILL,

SHREWSBURY.

June, 1951.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	244,156
Estimated Population	{	Whole County—for Birth and Death Rates	272,350
		Urban Districts—for Birth and Death Rates	137,783
		Rural Districts—for Birth and Death Rates	134,567
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1948)	£1,340,451
Estimated Product of a penny rate (as at 1st April, 1948)	£5,322

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VITAL STATISTICS

Population.—The estimated population of the County for Birth-rates and Death-rates was 272,350.

Marriages.—The number of marriages in 1948 was 2,333—a decrease of 92 as compared with the previous year.

Births.—There were 5,156 live births in 1948—a decrease of 382 as compared with the previous year.

The birth-rate per thousand of population was 18.92—a decrease of 1.99 as compared with 1947.

The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 17.9 per thousand of population.

Deaths.—There were 2,934 deaths in 1948—a decrease of 317 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate per thousand of population was 10.77—a decrease of 2.03 as compared with 1947.

The death-rate in 1948 for England and Wales was 10.8 per thousand.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died in 1948 before reaching the age of twelve months was 183.

The infant mortality rate, expressed as a rate per thousand live births, was 35.49—a decrease of 4.24 as compared with 1947.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 34 per thousand live births.

Cancer.—In 1948, there were 471 deaths from Cancer—a decrease of 2 compared with the previous year.

The 1948 death-rate from Cancer of 1.729 per thousand of population showed a decrease of 0.057 as compared with 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The statistical table on page 5 summarises the notifications of infectious disease which were received during the year 1948.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—During 1948, the incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) was much reduced, only thirteen cases (including two of Polioencephalitis) being notified in the County as compared with the high incidence of thirty-two cases in the previous year.

The following table shows the yearly incidence of this disease during the eleven years up to and including the year 1948 :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Acute Poliomyelitis from 1938 to 1948

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	15	4	4	1	5	10	13	5	32	13
Deaths	1	2	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	2

Typhoid.—Under the heading Enteric Fever, which includes Typhoid and Para-Typhoid, there was a marked increase in the number of cases notified. This was attributable almost entirely to an outbreak of Typhoid Fever at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, during the Autumn of 1948.

Examination of the data collected pointed to the infection being present in the hospital on the 29th and 30th August and on the 1st September. The first case was taken ill on 4th September and by the 8th September twelve of the staff and two patients were ill. The diagnosis of Typhoid Fever was made on the 9th September, and various measures were put into force immediately to safeguard the health of everyone in the hospital.

During the fifty days from the 4th September, one hundred and twenty-two persons, patients and staff, became infected. Dividing this period into five smaller periods of ten days each, fifty-one cases occurred in the first ten-day period, thirty-four in the second, twenty-five in the third, eight in the fourth, and four in the fifth.

Out of the one hundred and twenty-two cases from the hospital, seven terminated fatally, giving a case mortality rate of 57.37 per 1,000.

Connected with the outbreak, but outside the hospital, two cases occurred, one of which terminated fatally.

Infection could have been introduced into the hospital by (a) water, (b) milk, (c) food, or by the contamination of (b) or (c) within the hospital by a carrier of typhoid bacteria.

Extensive enquiries and investigations were carried out, and at various times during the outbreak the hospital was visited by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Laboratory Service, the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, the Regional Hospital Board and the County and District Medical Staffs.

Water was considered an unlikely vehicle of infection, and no evidence was discovered to suggest that this was in fact the cause of the outbreak.

Food seemed to be a possible vehicle, especially when, early in the outbreak, a carrier was discovered amongst the food handlers, but she could have been infected at the same time as the first of the cases, and as she gave no history of previous illness and her blood reactions did not suggest a previous infection, it seemed unlikely that this food handler was the source of the outbreak.

Food, particularly vegetables, which might have been already infected on arrival at the hospital kitchen, was carefully considered as a possible vehicle, but investigations failed to produce evidence in support of this possibility.

Milk seemed to be the most likely vehicle of infection, and the distribution throughout the hospital of the first batch of cases fitted in with this hypothesis. Conditions were found at one of the two farms concerned with the supply, which rendered the infection of milk possible. A supplementary water supply at the farm, which was at times used for washing down purposes in the cowsheds and dairy and for watering the cattle, was derived from a source which was liable to pollution. Although not proved beyond doubt, yet, of the various possibilities, contamination of milk either at the source or by an unrecognised case at the hospital, appeared to be the most likely cause of the outbreak.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year 1948

SANITARY DISTRICTS	Population (Census 1931) 244,156	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polioencephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Small Pox	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Erysypelas	Chicken Pox	Malaria
		149	629	1	1233	69	—	9	1	—	4	6	8	—	106	15	—	—
URBAN ..	121,665	126	439	—	745	52	—	2	1	1	6	9	7	—	7	17	—	—
Total for 1948	..	275	1068	1	1978	121	—	11	2	1	10	15	15	—	113	32	—	—
Total for 1947	..	183	465	17	2985	144	6	30	2	1	3	46	26	—	1	26	—	—
Increase or Decrease (+) (—)		+92	+603	—16	—1007	—23	—6	—19	—	—	+7	—31	—11	—	+112	+6	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, responsibility for Hospital and Specialist Services, including the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, became a function of the Regional Hospital Boards, and on 5th July, 1948, the Tuberculosis Officers, Dr. A. C. Watkin and Dr. T. R. Elliott (whose sudden death in May, 1950, was greatly regretted by all who knew him) together with their administrative staff, became employees of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Under Section 28 of the Act, however, Local Health Authorities have power to provide Care and After-care for persons suffering from illness ; and the Minister of Health has directed that such care shall be obligatory in the case of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. The Council's Health Visitors, therefore, continue to work in close liaison with the Chest Physicians (Tuberculosis Officers) of the Board, and exercise domiciliary supervision of all tuberculous persons, securing as required the attendance of contacts for examination at Chest Clinics.

The following statistical information relates to the notification and treatment of Tuberculosis cases during the year 1948 :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—During the year, 137 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 27 less than in the previous year ; and the number of deaths from this form of the disease was 93, compared with 95 during 1947.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—In the case of other forms of the disease, the number of notifications for 1948 was 67—or 4 less than in the previous year ; and the number of deaths was 10—or 8 less than in the previous year.

Particulars of notifications of, and deaths from, both forms of Tuberculosis are as follows:—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary) in 1948

Age periods of Cases				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
1—5	..	..	..	—	1	4	3	—	1	1	3
5—15	..	..	..	1	3	16	15	1	—	2	—
15—25	..	..	..	16	27	5	9	10	10	—	—
25—35	..	..	..	25	8	—	6	14	6	—	—
35—45	..	..	..	18	8	1	1	10	3	—	1
45—55	..	..	..	9	3	—	4	12	5	1	1
55—65	..	..	..	11	3	—	—	11	3	—	—
65 and upwards	..	..	..	2	2	1	2	4	2	—	—
				82	55	27	40	62	31	5	5
TOTAL FOR 1948				..	137	67		93		10	
TOTAL FOR 1947				..	164	71		95		18	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938

Year	Notifications	Deaths	Population	Rates per 1,000	
				Notifications	Deaths
1938	164	71	241,400	0·68	0·29
1939	156	91	*244,900		
			‡249,500	0·63	0·36
1940	198	72	257,170	0·76	0·27
1941	246	109	276,920	0·88	0·39
1942	208	91	268,900	0·77	0·33
1943	213	126	260,900	0·81	0·48
1944	155	108	259,830	0·59	0·41
1945	162	108	256,530	0·63	0·42
1946	142	82	262,020	0·54	0·31
1947	164	95	264,800	0·61	0·35
1948	137	93	272,350	0·50	0·34

*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

‡Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations during the year 1948 was 649, compared with 780 in the previous year.

Shelters.—During 1948 there were 119 shelters in the County, 113 of which were provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax.—During the year, Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 39 new cases, Pneumoperitoneum in 16 cases, and 118 patients regularly attended.

Particulars of Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment given during 1948

Centre	Cases Treated	Refills Given
Shrewsbury Chest Clinic ..	67	908
Wrekin Hospital	46	1098
Shirlett Sanatorium	5	110
TOTAL	118	2116

X-Ray Examination.—During the year, 2,680 X-ray films were taken—an increase of 260 over the figures for the previous year.

Light Therapy.—During the year, 9 cases attended for treatment and 229 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic Scheme.

Tubercular Peritonitis.—An arrangement has been made with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from Tubercular Peritonitis.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year, 8 cases were admitted to this Sanatorium, 4 patients were discharged and 5 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of admissions, discharges and deaths during 1948 :—

			Admitted	Discharged	Died
Adults ..	Males ..		41	39	—
	Females ..		35	33	1
Children ..	Boys ..		—	2	—
	Girls ..		3	3	1
TOTAL ..			79	77	2

Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries in 1948

Tuberculosis Dispensaries	Cases who attended during the year		Summary of Attendances			
	For the first time	Total	Notified Cases	Contacts	Suspects	Total
Shrewsbury	665	1079	1085	381	1072	2538
Oswestry	99	246	628	48	124	800
Wellington	494	856	2232	213	859	3304
Whitchurch	42	90	86	28	85	199
Ludlow	29	68	37	11	39	87
Bridgnorth	72	110	125	49	64	238
TOTAL ..	1401	2449	4193	730	2243	7166

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, three sessions were held for examination of contacts, and 41 attendances made.

Arrangements are also made for a Clinic to be held at Market Drayton at intervals to encourage the attendance of persons who find it difficult to travel to the Shrewsbury or Wellington Clinics. Three sessions were held, and 52 attendances made.

Visits of Tuberculosis Officers (Chest Physicians) :—

To notified cases	207
To contacts	20
To suspicious cases	114
On discharge from Sanatorium ..	8
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	349
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Allowances to Patients (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—The payment of Maintenance Allowances, previously made in accordance with Ministry of Health Memorandum 266/T, was taken over by the National Assistance Board on 5th July, 1948, when 36 tuberculous persons were in receipt of allowances. On 31st December, 1948, a total of 32 patients were receiving grants from the National Assistance Board under the special scale for tuberculous persons.

VENEREAL DISEASES

With the transfer, on 5th July, 1948, of responsibility for the Hospital and Specialist Services to Regional Hospital Boards, the County Council then ceased to be responsible for the Venereal Diseases Clinics at Shrewsbury and Oswestry, but at the request of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board the County Council continued to administer these Clinics under an "agency arrangement" until the end of 1948.

The County Council still have certain responsibilities in connection with the treatment of cases of venereal disease, and it is their duty, under their scheme for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, to take such steps as will ensure that persons who are reported as suspected sources of infection attend for examination and, if found necessary, continue to attend for treatment.

It is fitting that tribute should be paid in this report to the late Col. J. Grech, D.S.O. (R.A.M.C. Ret.) whose services in the capacity of Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinics in this County since 1923 were terminated by his death in June, 1948.

The information given in the following tables relating to the treatment of cases of venereal diseases at the Shrewsbury and Oswestry Clinics during 1948 has been supplied by Dr. J. P. G. Rogerson, the Medical Officer in charge.

Cases of Venereal Diseases treated during 1947 and 1948

	SHREWSBURY CLINIC											
	Cases						Attendances					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Syphilis	131	134	120	93	251	227	878	1053	860	959	1738	2012
Soft Chancre	1	3	—	—	1	3	6	9	—	—	6	9
Gonorrhoea	137	107	28	20	165	127	305	321	93	41	398	362
Other Conditions ..	132	142	95	68	227	210	241	370	165	151	406	521
Total	401	386	243	181	644	567	1430	1753	1118	1151	2548	2904
Increase or Decrease ..		—15		—62		—77		+323		+33		+356

	OSWESTRY CLINIC											
Syphilis	20	19	24	14	44	33	135	89	135	174	270	263
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	17	18	6	7	23	25	36	54	14	24	50	78
Other Conditions ..	16	19	15	7	31	26	27	44	28	14	55	58
Total	53	56	45	28	98	84	198	187	177	212	375	399
Increase or Decrease ..		+3		—17		—14		—11		+35		+24

The following tables give particulars of the Shropshire cases treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinics during 1948 :—

Shropshire Cases of Venereal Diseases treated during 1948

	SHREWSBURY CLINIC								
	New Cases			Total Cases			Attendances		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	32	17	49	115	87	202	880	884	1764
Soft Chancre	2	—	2	3	—	3	9	—	9
Gonorrhoea	39	7	46	90	18	108	276	35	311
Other Conditions ..	121	47	168	131	63	194	347	141	488
Total	194	71	265	339	168	507	1512	1060	2572

	OSWESTRY CLINIC								
	New Cases			Total Cases			Attendances		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	—	2	2	10	7	17	40	75	115
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	2	1	3	6	2	8	17	7	24
Other Conditions ..	9	5	14	12	6	18	38	10	48
Total	11	8	19	28	15	43	95	92	187

	Wolverhampton Clinic								
	New Cases			Total Attendances (all cases)					
	Male	Female	Total						
Syphilis	2			113					
Soft Chancre	—								
Gonorrhoea	3								
Other Conditions ..	20								
Total	25			113					

Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres

	Culture	Serum	Microscopic
Salop Clinics	270	803	470
Wolverhampton* ..	—	12	15

*From 1st January to 4th July, 1948

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it is the duty of the County Council, as Local Health Authority, to make arrangements for the care, including the dental care, of expectant and nursing mothers and of children who have not attained the age of five years and are not in attendance at school.

Notification of Births.—The following table gives particulars of the notifications of births received during 1948, when, on the 5th July, the functions of the Shrewsbury Borough Council as an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority were transferred to the County Council on the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Notification of Births for the year 1948

Period	Area	Live Births	Still-Births	Total
1st January to 4th July	Borough of Shrewsbury ..	381	11	392
	County (excluding Shrewsbury)	2266	53	2319
5th July to 31st December	Whole County	2461	50	2511
	Total	5108	114	5222

Premature Births.—For statistical and other purposes, infants not exceeding $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight at birth are regarded as “premature”; and the following table gives the survival rate of premature infants, born in 1948, whose mothers were normally resident in this County :—

Survival Rate for Premature Infants born in 1948

PERIOD	AREA	BORN				DIED		Alive after 28 days	Survival Rate
		At Home	In Hospital	In Nursing Home	Total	Within 24 hours	Between 2nd and 28th day		
1st Jan. to 4th July	Borough of Shrewsbury	7	14	3	24	2	5	17	70·4%
	County (excluding Shrewsbury) ..	45	83	9	137	11	14	112	81·7%
5th July to 31st Dec.	Whole County ..	50	104	7	161	12	21	128	79·5%
	Total	102	201	19	322	25	40	257	79·8%

Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.—The table on page 12 gives particulars of the attendances at Welfare Centres throughout the County, of children under five years of age and expectant mothers.

The figures relating to the ante-natal cases which attended the Shrewsbury Child Welfare Centres, at Murivance and White House, are of those who attend at special ante-natal sessions held fortnightly by Dr. D. A. Urquhart, Obstetrical Consultant.

It will be noted that in this table the attendances at the Shrewsbury Welfare Centres (Murivance and White House) are divided into those which were made before and after “the appointed day,” as these clinics became the responsibility of the County Council when the Maternity and Child Welfare functions of the Borough of Shrewsbury were transferred to the County Council on the 5th July.

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1946, 1947 and 1948

WELFARE CENTRES	CHILDREN						EXPECTANT MOTHERS									
	Under 1 year			Between 1 and 5 years												
	New Cases			Total Attendances of all Cases			New Cases			Total Attendances of all Cases						
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948				
Bishop's Castle	25	33	36	107	145	297	19	31	20	180	176	266	2	1	2	2
Bridgnorth	126	153	172	1595	2222	2217	48	40	48	1946	1797	1695	76	83	187	149
Broseley	—	73	52	—	643	672	—	14	7	—	331	427	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	35	62	49	373	521	423	16	25	23	484	505	548	12	11	19	37
Dawley	116	112	109	1486	1334	1291	4	13	16	2016	1875	1733	15	37	58	69
Donnington	63	79	86	354	475	735	26	34	25	217	228	382	5	6	33	48
Ellesmere	23	54	44	268	263	235	9	20	38	265	176	182	10	7	49	36
Highley	64	55	49	392	455	641	18	5	3	388	336	359	20	10	13	39
Ironbridge	164	136	118	1655	1762	1672	32	28	42	1312	1266	1415	14	22	47	111
Ludlow	168	173	245	1103	1314	1465	159	71	148	1099	858	1242	22	29	66	75
Market Drayton	137	155	152	1248	1485	1797	89	84	106	891	1102	1463	46	31	114	319
Newport	40	60	59	260	344	290	56	41	22	277	189	202	52	44	171	119
Oakenngates	132	139	149	1430	1438	2137	12	13	27	563	423	631	15	29	82	94
Oswestry	261	276	240	3120	3317	3176	25	24	46	725	444	639	15	18	62	62
Wellington	183	224	209	1987	2665	2723	48	62	57	1505	1346	1583	94	82	208	183
Wem	58	64	57	390	590	645	10	10	12	376	314	391	9	26	98	156
Whitchurch	92	130	120	1153	1599	1696	24	16	14	864	891	917	19	20	67	77
Murivance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(before 5th July)	—	—	215	—	—	1925	—	—	38	—	—	800	—	—	—	440
(after 5th July)	—	—	163	—	—	1900	—	—	29	—	—	694	—	—	—	348
White House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(before 5th July)	—	—	119	—	—	1283	—	—	18	—	—	564	—	—	—	220
(after 5th July)	—	—	184	—	—	1368	—	—	19	—	—	558	—	—	—	146
Total	1687	1978	2627	16921	20572	28588	595	531	758	13108	12257	16691	426	456	1192	2730

The Broseley Child Welfare Centre was opened in January, 1947.

County Council Hospital Ante-Natal Clinic.—The Ante-Natal Clinic held each week at No. 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, by Dr. Burke, Medical Superintendent of the County Council Hospital at Cross Houses, for women who had made arrangements for admission to that institution for confinement, became the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948. The following are particulars of attendances at the clinic from 1946 to 4th July, 1948 :—

Cases			Attendances		
1946	1947	1948 (to 4th July)	1946	1947	1948 (to 4th July)
526	978	393	1443	1710	929

In addition, 122 cases who had been confined at the County Council Hospital attended this Clinic for post-natal examination.

Care of Illegitimate Children and Unmarried Mothers.—Towards the end of 1943, Circular No. 2866 was issued by the Ministry of Health, drawing the attention of Welfare Authorities to the various problems, concerning illegitimate children and unmarried mothers, which had arisen during the war ; and in this Circular the Ministry recommended co-operation with, and reinforcement of the work of, existing Voluntary Moral Welfare Associations. In outlining the special duties to be carried out, the Ministry suggested that the appointment of a special worker with one of the recognised social service qualifications might be necessary ; and another recommendation was that, where homes for unmarried mothers and their children could not be found with relatives or foster parents, special hostels might be set up either by a voluntary body or by the Welfare Authority itself.

As the Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations of Lichfield and Hereford had been engaged in this work for a number of years, and as their Moral Welfare Workers in this County had had considerable experience in the various problems associated with illegitimacy (e.g., the obtaining of affiliation orders, arrangements for the accommodation of children in homes or institutions, and assistance where adoption is desirable), negotiations were entered into with these two Associations, and the Public Health Committee decided to utilise their services in carrying out the duties set out in the Ministry's Circular, and to make an annual grant of £500 to the Associations. The larger proportion of the population of the County being in the Lichfield Diocese, the two Associations mutually agreed that £275 should be Lichfield's share, and £225 Hereford's share of the total annual grant.

In November, 1945, however, it was found that an additional Welfare Worker was needed in the Shropshire part of the Lichfield Diocese and a grant of a further £100 per annum was, therefore, made to this Association from the 1st April, 1946, followed in April, 1948, by an additional grant of £70 per annum to cover increased expenditure arising out of the provision of new office accommodation and car maintenance. The total annual grant made to the two Associations during the financial year 1948—49 was, therefore, £670, of which £445 went to Lichfield and £225 to Hereford.

With the transfer to the County Council of the Maternity and Child Welfare services in the Borough of Shrewsbury on 5th July, 1948, the County Council, under the same arrangement, assumed responsibility for the supervision of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children within the Borough.

The County Council have two representatives on the Councils of the Lichfield and Hereford Diocesan Associations.

Under the County Council scheme, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Hospitals and Institutions notify the County Medical Officer of Health of confinements (actual or impending) of unmarried mothers of which they become aware in the course of their work, and this information is then forwarded to the appropriate Moral Welfare Worker, who pays an initial visit as soon as practicable, and then visits each case whenever necessary, but not less frequently than once during each quarter. Particulars of the illegitimate children supervised are as follows :—

Children Supervised during 1946, 1947 and 1948

	TOTAL			LICHFIELD			HEREFORD		
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948
On Register on 1st January	263	281	382	157	163	241	106	118	151
Added to Register	211	263	224	125	168	155	86	95	69
Removed from Register ..	193	152	119	119	90	75	74	62	44
On Register on 31st Dec. ..	281	392	497	163	241	321	118	151	176

Included amongst the 224 illegitimate children added to the Register during 1948, were 54 cases resident in the Borough of Shrewsbury for whom the County Council became responsible with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act in 1948.

The following are particulars of the supervisory work undertaken by the three Moral Welfare Workers in connection with illegitimate children and unmarried mothers, both expectant and actual :—

Supervisory Work undertaken by the Moral Welfare Workers during 1946 to 1948

	1946	1947	1948
Unmarried expectant mothers visited ..	67	93	89
Visits made to Mothers and Children ..	2264	2189	2525

Flora Dugdale Memorial Home.—With regard to the recommendation contained in Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health that a special “mother and baby” hostel might be provided, accommodation of this kind already existed at two hostels in the County which are affiliated to the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare—the North Shropshire Hostel for Girls at Myford House, Horsehay, and the Shrewsbury Shelter, Refuge and Hostel at “Chaddeslode,” Shrewsbury. Representations were, however, made to the Public Health Committee that there was a very real need for a Home for illegitimate children, apart altogether from the question of accommodation for unmarried mothers, as, in the experience of the Moral Welfare Workers, the first two years after the birth of her child are often the most difficult period in the life of an unmarried mother. This is particularly so if she has no home, or if her parents maintain an unrelenting attitude towards her, or if, by reason of ill-health or having large families of their own, they are unable to assist by looking after her child while she is earning her living.

With the object of assisting girls in difficult circumstances, the Public Health Committee decided to re-open the former County Home for Ailing Babies at Wellington as a Home for illegitimate children up to two years of age.

The Home, which was re-designated the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home, was therefore re-opened in July, 1945, with accommodation for 15 babies. It is a matter for regret that up to the end of 1947, the shortage of nursing staff restricted the work of this Home, rendering impracticable the full utilisation of the accommodation available. During 1948, however, the staffing position was very much improved by the recognition of the Home as a Training Centre for Nursery Students and the consequent employment of six such students regularly throughout the year.

The following table gives particulars of the number of children provided for in the Home from July, 1945, to the end of 1948 :—

Year	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Children in the Home on 31st December	Average Number Accommodated	Average age on admission (months)
1945	9	2	—	7	5·7	9
1946	13	7	—	13	9·5	5
1947	15	14	1	13	9·3	6
1948	9	9	—	13	13·7	4·6

In the case of the child who died at the Home during 1947, the cause of death was acute capillary bronchitis. Two other children shown as having been discharged from the Home during that year, were, in fact, transferred for treatment to the County Council Hospital, where they subsequently died from acute gastro-enteritis.

As all the children in the Flora Dugdale Home were in fact “deprived children” within the meaning of the Children Act, 1948, the Children’s Committee became statutorily responsible for the administration of the Home when that Act came into operation in July of that year. The Home has, therefore, ceased to be an integral part of the Scheme for the Care of Illegitimate Children and Unmarried Mothers under the Health Committee of the County Council.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—The following are particulars of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which have been notified in the past four years—all of whom apparently recovered without injury to the eyesight :—

1945	..	54 cases	1947	..	40 cases
1946	..	27 cases	1948	..	14 cases

Provision of Artificial Limbs.—The Orthopaedic branch of the Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council was extended in 1944 to include the provision of artificial limbs for children under five years of age, but with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, the provision of such appliances became the responsibility of Regional Hospital Boards.

Fortunately there have been no cases amongst children of these tender years for whom the provision of artificial limbs has been necessary since the extension of the County Council scheme.

Provision of Dental Treatment.—Particulars of the arrangements, actual and prospective, for the dental treatment of Mothers and Young Children are given in the following Report of the Senior Dental Officer.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER

As was anticipated, the number of expectant and nursing mothers who wished for dental treatment and the number of pre-school children for whom dental examination and treatment were requested, continued to grow during the year.

The Council's dental scheme which was in operation up to the 4th July provided comprehensive treatment, free of cost to the patient with the exception of the supply of artificial dentures. In cases where dentures were necessary they were made and supplied either free or at a cost based on the ability of the patient to pay for them in accordance with the Council's scale of charges for the supply of appliances. Of the six dentures supplied prior to 5th July, two were charged at full cost to the patient and two at part cost. This contributory scheme was dropped when the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force on 5th July, 1948, which made it obligatory on the part of Local Health Authorities to provide comprehensive dental treatment free to expectant and nursing mothers.

In order to comply with the provisions of the new Act arrangements were made as from 5th July for all expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children seen either at the clinics or in their homes to be offered a dental examination, to be followed by treatment if found necessary. The procedure adopted was for all new cases who were willing to undergo a dental examination to be referred to the Council's Dental Service by the Medical Officers and Nurses as a routine measure.

The numbers referred during 1948 to the Dental Officers were 326 mothers and 81 children, and at the end of the year the numbers so referred were steadily mounting.

The growing stream of patients became more than could be dealt with by the Dental Staff, and although 220 mothers and 76 children were examined, and with the cases brought forward from 1947, in all 227 mothers and 70 children received treatment, there were 84 mothers and 3 children awaiting examination at the close of the year.

An analysis of the numbers dealt with and details of the treatment carried out are given in the tabular statements on pages 18 to 20.

Staff.—Up to the end of 1945 the duties of the Council's Dental Staff were almost entirely confined to the inspection and treatment of pupils in maintained schools. In 1946 a limited amount of work for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children was undertaken, and in 1947, when two more full-time officers were appointed, although the staff was still insufficient to deal adequately with the school population, the work for mothers and pre-school children was extended and a scheme for the provision of artificial dentures introduced.

In anticipation of the greatly increased demand for dental treatment resulting from the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, the establishment of dental officers was reviewed. It was estimated that four additional full-time dental officers would be required in order to discharge the Council's obligation to provide dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and young children in the County, and it was agreed that the establishment of full-time officers be increased accordingly. Authority was given for one additional dental officer to be appointed during the year and the remaining three to be appointed at the rate of one per year as the need for their services arose.

Although efforts were made to obtain an additional full-time officer in 1948, the response to advertisements was very unsatisfactory and it was not possible to make an appointment. Until the necessary Dental Staff can be recruited it will not be possible to provide an adequate priority service for mothers and pre-school children.

Broken Appointments.—Expectant and nursing mothers are found to take appointments made for them to see the Dental Officers in a very irresponsible way. No woman who had not previously agreed to attend at a clinic when sent for received an appointment, and although careful consideration was given to the availability of public transport in fixing the day, place and time of their attendance, records show that 47% of appointments made for expectant, and 39% for nursing mothers were not kept.

Failure on the part of patients to appreciate the importance of keeping appointments made for them creates difficulties in the planning of the work and, if not carefully watched, leads to waste of the time of the dental staff.

Mechanical Work.—The mechanical work in connection with the construction of the artificial dentures supplied to patients by the Council's Dental Service is done by a firm of Dental Mechanics. The extraordinarily big demand by the public for dental treatment involving the supply of artificial dentures has laid heavy pressure on such contracting firms throughout the country. This in turn has led to delay in getting mechanical work done and in the supply of dentures to patients.

It is hoped that in the not far distant future the Council will set up a Dental Laboratory in which all the mechanical work for the Council's Dental Service can be carried out expeditiously.

Accommodation.—The success of a scheme for carrying out comprehensive dental treatment depends very largely upon the availability of suitable, well equipped premises in which the work can be done. At the present time the position in the County in regard to accommodation is not satisfactory.

Existing Dental Clinics.—There are three permanent dental clinics in the County at present, one each in Oswestry, Wellington and Shrewsbury.

The clinic at Murivance, Shrewsbury, which consists of a small dental surgery with the joint use with other services of a waiting room, was taken over from the Borough of Shrewsbury in April, 1945. This one surgery is now inadequate to cope with the volume of dental work to be done within the Borough. As a temporary measure to relieve the pressure a part of the premises at No. 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, was allocated for use until either new or other premises suitable for conversion into a dental clinic, can be provided.

More suitable accommodation to meet the need of the Council's Dental Service within the Borough of Shrewsbury, including a dental laboratory in which all the mechanical work necessary can be done, will be provided, it is hoped, in the near future.

Erection and adaptation of premises as Dental Clinics already approved.

Ludlow.—Arrangements were completed during the year for the erection of a dental annexe to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Ludlow, but owing to difficulties in obtaining the necessary building materials, the contractors were unable to commence the work in 1948.

Oakengates.—The adaptation has been completed of rooms at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Oakengates for dental clinic purposes.

Future requirements of Dental Clinics.

Whitchurch.—Facilities for carrying out dental treatment are urgently required at Whitchurch. A scheme is in preparation to adapt rooms in the existing Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for use as a dental clinic as a temporary measure until such time as other accommodation is provided.

Bridgnorth and Market Drayton.—At both these centres no dental clinic, as such, exists. Provisional approval was given in 1947 for the establishment of one at each place and it is expected that plans will be approved in due course.

Newport.—The new Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which it has been decided to build will contain a dental clinic. This new clinic will provide adequate facilities for the needs of the Dental Service for the treatment of patients in Newport and the surrounding districts.

Ironbridge.—Although the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Ironbridge is being used by the Dental Officers for carrying out treatment at present, it is not a suitable place in which to establish a dental clinic. This neighbourhood is a populous one and a satisfactory dental clinic should be provided there.

Analysis of the numbers of Expectant and Nursing Mothers dealt with during 1948

	1st January to 4th July			5th July to 31st December			Year 1948		
	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total
Referred for examination in 1948	108	46	154	129	43	172	237	89	326
Referred for examination in 1947, but examined in 1948	19	7	26	—	—	—	19	7	26
							256	96	352
Examined in 1948	88	35	123	70	27	97	158	62	220
Awaiting examination on 4th July, 1948 ..	29	6	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Awaiting examination on 31st December, 1948	—	—	—	65	19	84	65	19	84
Failed to keep all appointments made for examination	10	12	22	23	3	26	33	15	48
							256	96	352
Found to require treatment in 1948	88	35	123	70	27	97	158	62	220
Treatment in progress in 1947 and continued in 1948	13	8	21	—	—	—	13	8	21
							171	70	241
Treatment completed and patient made dentally fit	24	9	33	31	15	46	55	24	79
Treatment in progress on 4th July, 1948 ..	50	25	75	—	—	—	—	—	—
Treatment in progress on 31st December, 1948	—	—	—	71	32	103	71	32	103
Treatment commenced but abandoned by patient before completion	21	7	28	14	3	17	35	10	45
Failed to keep all appointments made for treatment	6	2	8	4	2	6	10	4	14
							171	70	241
Numbers having received treatment	95	41	136	116	50	166	161	66	227

Expectant and Nursing Mothers—Details of Treatment carried out and time spent during 1948

	1st January to 4th July			5th July to 31st December			Year 1948		
	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total	Expec- tant	Nurs- ing	Total
Teeth extracted	119	112	231	173	98	271	292	210	502
Fillings inserted	45	33	78	40	48	88	85	81	166
Other operations	78	52	130	107	36	143	185	88	273
Administrations of General Anaesthesia ..	6	13	19	13	1	14	19	14	33
Dentures supplied {	1	2	3	5	5	10	6	7	13
	—	1	1	4	2	6	4	3	7
	—	2	2	5	2	7	5	4	9
	—	—	—	4	2	6	4	2	6
TOTAL ..	1	5	6	18	11	29	19	16	35
Half-days devoted to examination	4	2	6	5	3	8	9	5	14
Half-days devoted to treatment	24	19	43	31	20	51	55	39	94
TOTAL ..	28	21	49	36	23	59	64	44	108

Analysis of the numbers of Pre-School Children dealt with during 1948

	1st January to 4th July	5th July to 31st December	Year 1948
Referred for examination	43	38	81
Examined	42	34	76
Awaiting examination at 31st December, 1948	—	3	3
Failed to keep all appointments made for examination ..	1	1	2
	43	38	81
Found to require treatment	38	32	70
Treatment completed and patient made dentally fit ..	35	25	60
Treatment in progress on 31st December, 1948	—	4	4
Treatment commenced but abandoned by parent before completion	3	3	6
Numbers having received treatment	38	32	70

Pre-School Children—Details of Treatment carried out and time spent during 1948

	1st January to 4th July	5th July to 31st December	Year 1948
Teeth extracted	59	34	93
Fillings inserted	1	3	4
Other operations	26	24	50
Administrations of General Anaesthesia	15	7	22
Half-days devoted to examination	1	1	2
Half-days devoted to treatment	4	4	8
TOTAL	5	5	10

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, makes it a duty of the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, to secure the availability within the County of an adequate number of Certified Midwives for attendance on women in their homes, either as Midwives or Maternity Nurses.

By arrangement with the Shropshire County Nursing Association, the Midwives employed by the various District Nursing Associations throughout the County became the direct employees of the County Council on 5th July, 1948.

At the end of that year, the following registered Midwives were engaged in midwifery practice in this County :—

Employed by the Local Health Authority	102
In Private Practice (Domiciliary)	17
„ „ „ (Private Nursing Homes)	13
„ Hospitals	47
	<hr/> 179 <hr/>

Of the 102 Midwives employed by the County Council during 1948 in domiciliary midwifery work, 73 were trained in the induction of gas/air analgesia by means of the Minnitt Apparatus, of which 64 were available and were used in a total of 540 cases in this County during the year under review.

The following are the particulars of the domiciliary midwifery work carried out during the year on behalf of the County Council :—

County Council Midwives—Domiciliary Midwifery Work in 1948

Midwives	Period	Confinements Attended			Visits			
		As Mid-wives	As Mater-nity Nurses	Total	Ante-Natal	Mid-wifery	Mater-nity	Total
Shropshire Nursing Association District Nurses	1st Jan. to 4th July	819	177	996	9620	15704	3640	28964
County Council District Nurses ..	5th July to 31st Dec.	736	204	940	9404	14235	3870	27510
County Council Midwives	Whole Year	216	65	281	2360	5354		7714
TOTAL ..		1771	446	2217	21384	42803		64188

Statistics relating to work under the Midwives Acts

Year	Midwives practising in December	Cases attended by Midwives acting			Visits of Inspection by Supervisor
		As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	Total	
1938	202	*	*	*	458
1939	233	*	*	*	505
1940	221	*	*	*	597
1941	185	3077	836	3913	271
1942	173	3186	955	4141	344
1943	181	3262	943	4205	335
1944	176	3522	1136	4658	336
1945	173	3261	1168	4429	230
1946	170	3340	1037	4377	180
1947	189	3518	1730	5248	245
1948	179	3394	1393	4787	353

* Figures not available.

Notifications received from Midwives

Year	Medical Help	Still-births	Death of mother or child	Artificial feeding	Liability to be a source of infection	Having laid out a dead body
1938	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	1240	39	21	52	169	31
1940	1390	49	17	60	160	42
1941	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	1466	59	29	39	130	49
1943	1402	56	35	137	200	35
1944	1484	70	44	138	203	31
1945	1222	65	37	140	218	24
1946	1304	71	59	182	169	36
1947	1220	87	62	135	193	38
1948	1207	76	54	207	160	37

Maternal Deaths.—Notifications received from local Registrars of maternal deaths, directly or indirectly due to pregnancy, numbered 4 in 1948, one of which was transferable to Montgomeryshire.

The Maternal Death-rates for the whole County (inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury), based on the official returns of the Registrar-General, are as follows :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	
		Shropshire	England and Wales
1946	6	1·15	1·43
1947	11	1·94	1·17
1948	3	0·57	1·02

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths which have been investigated in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that 104 deaths out of a total of 257 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact brings out the importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement.

Maternal Deaths, 1930 to 1948

Year	Causes of Deaths investigated				Death-rate per 1,000 live and still-births		
	All causes	Puerperal Pyrexia	Other	Number in first confinement	Shropshire		England and Wales
					Local Statistics	Official Statistics	
1930	21	8	13	11	5·13	5·37	4·40
1931	21	10	11	12	5·31	5·31	4·11
1932	18	11	7	6	4·77	3·97	4·24
1933	22	8	14	13	6·00	5·57	4·42
1934	24	9	15	11	6·52	5·43	4·60
1935	15	9	6	4	4·16	4·43	4·10
1936	18	4	14	5	4·93	4·39	3·81
1937	14	3	11	5	3·97	3·97	3·23
1938	16	5	11	7	4·34	3·25	3·08
1939	12	4	8	7	3·16	2·9	2·93
1940	14	2	12	4	3·41	2·6	2·16
1941	10	2	8	—	2·14	3·43	2·23
1942	6	—	6	1	1·24	1·2	2·01
1943	13	1	12	3	2·6	2·2	2·29
1944	7	2	5	3	1·3	1·7	1·93
1945	6	1	5	4	1·3	1·5	1·79
1946	7	—	7	2	1·34	1·15	1·43
1947	10	—	10	5	1·76	1·94	1·17
1948	3	—	3	1	0·57	0·57	1·02

Payment to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board, a Midwife is required to seek medical assistance in an emergency by the issue of a Medical Aid Form, and in such circumstances a fee becomes payable by the County Council as Local Supervising Authority under the Medical Practitioners (Fees) Regulations. With the revision and re-issue of these Regulations in 1948, with effect from 18th April of that year, medical practitioners became entitled to remuneration for their services at increased rates and, consequently, although the number of Medical Aid Forms issued in 1948 was 496, as compared with 562 in the previous year, the payments made by the County Council amounted to £1,296 in 1948—an increase of £256 on the payments made in 1947.

Where, however, a medical practitioner has undertaken to provide maternity medical services, under the National Health Service (General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations, payment is made for such services by the Local Executive Council and the medical practitioner is not then entitled to any payment from the Local Supervising Authority in respect of a maternity patient for whom he has accepted responsibility.

Obstetrical Consultant Service.—With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, the provision of Consultant Specialist Services became a responsibility of Regional Hospital Boards ; and in fulfilment of their obligation in that respect, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board decided to continue the scheme of the County Council which was in operation on the “appointed day” and under which the services of an Obstetrical Consultant were available to any medical practitioner desiring a second opinion, or assistance, as a result of a complication or emergency arising out of pregnancy, parturition or the puerperium. Under the County Council scheme, the services of an Obstetrical Consultant were available for doctors in attendance on patients not only in their own homes, but in Hospitals or other Institutions, including private Nursing Homes. In common, however, with other specialist and consultant services provided by the Regional Hospital Board, those of an Obstetrical Consultant are not provided under the National Health Service Act for private patients in Nursing Homes.

The services of an Obstetrical Consultant were sought in 59 cases during 1948.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—A total of 15 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1948, but no deaths occurred from this condition.

Pemphigus.—There were no cases of Pemphigus during 1948.

HEALTH VISITING

Immediately prior to the 5th July, 1948, the County Council employed on Health Visiting duties 21 whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses, as well as 53 District Nurse Midwives—the latter, part-time—but on the “appointed day,” with the transfer to the County Council of the Maternity and Child Welfare functions of the Borough of Shrewsbury, the actual number of whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses in the employment of the County Council was raised to 25.

Until the “appointed day,” a Health Visitor’s duties were limited to mothers and to children under five years of age, but Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, places a statutory obligation upon the County Council to “make provision in their area for the visiting of persons in their homes by visitors, . . . , for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.” The Health Visitor’s duties have, therefore, been greatly extended.

On the 5th July, 1948, the Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Health Visitors, with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, was appointed Superintendent Nursing Officer (with two Assistants) and became responsible for the supervision of the work of all the nurses employed by the County Council—Health Visitors, School Nurses, Home Nurses and Midwives.

The following is a summary of the visits made by Health Visitors during 1948, with the corresponding figures for 1947 :—

Visits Paid by Health Visitors during 1947 and 1948

Period	Health Visiting Staff	To Children				To Expectant Mothers	
		Under 1 year		1 to 5 years	Total		
		First	Total				
1947	Whole-time .. 15	2933	12868	14069	26937	595	
	Part-time .. 52	1716	15160	13972	29132	1811	
	Total	4649	28028	28041	56069	2406	
1948 :							
	1st January to 4th July ..	Whole-time .. 18	1312	7050	7806	14856	309
		Part-time .. 53	857	7745	7961	15706	882
	5th July to 31st December ..	Whole-time .. 23	1774	10126	11585	21711	402
		Part-time .. 53	640	6922	7537	14459	809
	Total	4583	31843	34889	66732	2402	
Increase or Decrease		—66	+3815	+6848	+10663	—4	

HOME NURSING SERVICE

Before the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Home Nursing Services were provided by the District Nurses and District Nurse-Midwives in the employment of the 65 District Nursing Associations affiliated to the Shropshire County Nursing Association.

Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, however, makes it a duty of the County Council, as Local Health Authority, to make arrangements for securing the attendances of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes, and after preliminary discussions with representatives of the County Nursing Association, the County Council decided to carry out this statutory obligation by the direct employment of the District Nurses of the various District Nursing Associations.

On 31st December, 1948, the Nursing Staff in the employment of the County Council was as follows :—

Superintendent Nursing Officer	..	..	..	..	1
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers	..	..	..	..	3
Whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses	..	..	..	..	25
Whole-time Midwives	..	..	..	..	6
Whole-time District Nurses	..	..	..	..	9
District Nurse Midwives	..	..	..	..	87
Part-time District Nurse Midwives	..	..	..	..	9

Set out in the following table are particulars of the numbers of cases nursed at home and of the visits paid by the Home Nurses during the period from 1st January to 4th July, 1948, (when they were employed by the Nursing Associations) and from 5th July to 31st December, 1948 (when in the employment of the County Council).

Home Nursing Services, 1948

Period	Cases			Visits		
	Medical	Surgical	Total	General Nursing	Casual	Total
1st January to 4th July	2966	1654	4620	65499	10250	75749
5th July to 31st December	3050	1683	4733	70244	9051	79295
Total	6016	3337	9353	135743	19301	155044

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination Acts, 1867—1907.—The County Council were responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts until they were repealed by the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on 5th July, 1948, and since that date all compulsory vaccination has ceased. Previously, in order to correlate the duties under the Vaccination Acts with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and to secure, by centralisation of the work, eventual simplification of administrative procedure, the Public Health Committee had decided to make the Chief Clerk in the County Health Office Vaccination Officer for any district in which that post became vacant, and on 4th July, 1948, the Chief Clerk was acting as Vaccination Officer for fifteen Vaccination Districts, which included approximately 74.3 per cent. of the population of the County.

The tables on pages 27 and 28 give information regarding the vaccination work during the year 1947, and during the period of approximately six months from 1st January to 4th July, 1948, when the Vaccination Acts were repealed. It will be observed that during 1947, when 5,531 births were registered, there were 1,250 declarations of conscientious objection and 2,529 certificates of successful primary vaccination (the equivalent of 45.72 per cent. of the total births for that year), and that during the period from 1st January to 4th July, 1948, when 2,666 births were registered, there were 351 declarations of conscientious objection and 471 certificates of successful primary vaccination (the equivalent of 17.67 per cent of the total births for that period).

National Health Service Act, 1946—Section 26.—Prior to 5th July, 1948, vaccination against Smallpox was carried out mainly by Public Vaccinators but, with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act and the repeal of the Vaccination Acts on that date, the County Council, as Local Health Authority, were required to make a scheme providing facilities for vaccination in which private medical practitioners could participate.

The Council's Vaccination Scheme follows very much the same lines as that for Diphtheria Immunisation ; the patient has free choice of doctor, and vaccination is either carried out by the family doctor, or by an Assistant County Medical Officer at Special Sessions or in the course of the ordinary Sessions held in the Child Welfare Centres.

As in the case of Diphtheria Immunisation, medical practitioners participating in the Council's Scheme are required to send a record card to the County Medical Officer of Health as each vaccination is completed, and a fee is then paid to private medical practitioners in respect of each notification received.

The table below gives particulars of vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed during the period from 5th July to 31st December, 1948, when a total of 2,490 births were registered and 696 certificates of successful primary vaccination on infants under one year of age were received—the equivalent of 27.95 per cent. of the total births for the period.

Persons Vaccinated and Re-Vaccinated during 1948

	Vaccinated by	Under 1	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Vaccinations ..	Assistant County Medical Officers ..	95	7	—	—	102
	Medical Practitioners ..	601	49	15	28	693
	Total ..	696	56	15	28	795
Re-vaccinations	Assistant County Medical Officers ..	—	—	—	—	—
	Medical Practitioners ..	2	7	19	57	85
	Total ..	2	7	19	57	85

Although vaccination did not cease to be compulsory until 5th July, 1948, the impending repeal of the Vaccination Act seems to have resulted in a marked reduction in the numbers of infants vaccinated in the first six months of 1948, when a percentage of only 17.67 of the infants whose births were registered during that period were vaccinated.

During the year 1948, when a total of 5,156 births were registered, 1,167 certificates of successful primary vaccination were received—equivalent to 22.63 per cent. of the live births registered, as compared with 45.72 per cent. during 1947.

Vaccination of Infants in 1947				Vaccination of Children in 1947 and 1948 (6 months)									
VACCINATION DISTRICTS	VACCINATION SUB-DISTRICTS	Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated	Insusceptible of Vaccination	Declarations of Conscientious Objection	Died Unvaccinated	Vaccination postponed	Removed out of District	Unaccounted for	Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination received	Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received		
			No.	%						1947	1948	1947	1948
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth	330	59	17.88	101	12	2	13	142	117	62	97	43
	Cleobury Mortimer	96	50	52.08	32	2	—	4	8	105	33	36	16
Clun	Bishop's Castle	40	27	67.50	10	2	—	1	—	38	20	9	6
	Chirbury	46	30	65.22	4	3	—	2	3	55	30	8	4
Ludlow	Clun	65	34	52.31	13	2	—	3	13	51	16	15	9
	Church Stretton	29	20	68.97	5	1	—	2	—	60	11	6	2
Oswestry	Craven Arms	37	20	54.05	3	—	—	13	—	28	10	5	3
	Ludlow	140	70	50.00	39	6	—	6	15	115	54	40	19
Shrewsbury	Ellesmere	141	51	36.17	18	6	1	—	65	57	192	17	9
	Oswestry	500	138	27.60	148	11	—	25	178	248	7	146	30
Wellington	Shrewsbury	1750	1126	64.34	294	67	9	132	116	1158	604	299	162
	Dawley	112	45	40.18	50	3	2	2	10	52	35	52	20
Wenlock	Newport	242	94	38.84	61	6	3	17	60	104	52	64	21
	Oakengates	110	4	3.64	47	2	—	2	54	4	2	56	28
Whitchurch	Wellington	692	257	37.28	172	24	3	33	196	299	133	190	66
	Madeley	425	135	31.76	118	11	2	7	150	176	82	132	55
Whitchurch	Shifnal	268	80	29.85	38	2	—	74	72	76	34	48	11
	Market Drayton	160	108	67.50	26	1	—	3	22	155	76	24	11
Whitchurch	Wem	116	71	61.21	22	5	2	2	11	117	72	24	14
	Whitchurch	232	110	47.41	49	—	—	4	69	231	62	47	23
TOTAL		5531	2529	45.72	1250	166	24	345	1184	3276	1587	1315	552
Percentage of total number of births for year 1947		..	..	45.72	22.60	3.00	0.43	6.24	21.41				
Percentage of total number of births for year 1946		..	..	48.25	24.36	3.63	0.68	8.04	14.50				

Vaccination of Infants from 1st January to 4th July, 1948

VACCINATION DISTRICTS	VACCINATION SUB-DISTRICTS	Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated		Insusceptible of Vaccination	Declarations of Conscientious Objection	Died Unvaccinated	Vaccination postponed	Removal out of District	Unaccounted for
			No.	%						
Bridgnorth	..	164	13	7.93	—	24	4	1	3	119
	Cleobury Mortimer	38	6	15.71	—	12	—	—	—	20
Clun	..	27	11	40.74	—	5	2	—	—	9
	Bishop's Castle	23	12	52.17	—	3	—	—	1	7
	Chirbury ..	39	8	20.51	—	3	—	1	2	25
	Clun ..	13	4	30.77	—	1	—	—	—	8
Ludlow	..	11	4	36.36	—	3	—	—	—	4
	Church Stretton	107	17	15.89	2	10	2	1	3	72
	Craven Arms	42	7	16.67	—	4	1	—	—	30
Oswestry	..	217	7	3.23	—	30	3	—	14	163
	Ellesmere ..	893	196	21.95	2	97	29	5	29	535
Shrewsbury	..	55	15	27.27	—	14	1	1	—	24
Wellington	..	113	7	6.11	—	11	1	—	7	87
	Dawley ..	58	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	41
	Newport ..	285	44	15.44	—	42	8	2	6	183
	Oakengates	190	35	18.42	—	31	1	—	2	121
Wenlock	..	130	8	6.15	—	11	4	—	27	80
	Shifnal ..	87	19	21.84	—	8	1	—	—	59
Whitchurch	..	54	18	33.33	—	10	—	1	—	25
	Market Drayton	120	40	33.33	—	16	1	—	—	63
	Wem ..									
	Whitchurch									
	TOTAL	2666	471	17.67	4	351	59	12	94	1675
Percentage of total number of births from 1st Jan. to 30th June, 1948 ..				17.67	0.15	13.16	2.21	0.45	3.53	62.83
Percentage of total number of births for year 1947				45.72	0.60	22.60	3.00	0.43	6.24	21.41

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The primary responsibility for the immunisation of children against diphtheria formerly rested with Local Sanitary Authorities, but between the 18th May, 1942, and the 1st January, 1946, the County Council were, with District Councils, concurrently responsible for ensuring that immunisation against Diphtheria was available to all children below the age of fifteen years whose parents were willing to accept this form of preventive treatment ; and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury, which had a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the Diphtheria Immunisation work in the County was carried out under the County Council scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

After the 1st January, 1946, the primary responsibility for ensuring that facilities were available for immunisation against Diphtheria of children who had not attained the age of five years and who were not attending a school recognised by the Ministry of Education was placed upon Welfare Authorities ; and during the years 1946 and 1947 the County Council were, therefore, primarily responsible for the immunisation of these children in the whole County, with the exception of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which, until the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, was an independent Child Welfare Authority.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, however, placed upon County Councils and County Borough Councils the sole responsibility for the administration and organisation of this work. The Health Committee of the Salop County Council, together with all Local Authorities under the Act, were required to submit proposals for a comprehensive scheme, which, after approval by the Minister of Health, was put into effect on the 5th July, 1948.

The County Council in formulating their scheme were required to allow parents to decide whether they would have their children immunised by a private medical practitioner or by a member of the County Medical Staff. The County Council were also required to give District Councils the opportunity of allowing their Medical Officers of Health to participate in the arrangements. With the exception of the Borough of Shrewsbury, where valuable work in the field of immunisation had been carried out by their Medical Officer of Health prior to the coming into operation of the Act, the District Medical Officers have not participated in the Diphtheria immunisation work in this country.

It may be of interest to review briefly the application of the County Council's scheme to pre-school children.

When a child reaches six months of age, a circular letter with a detachable consent form is sent to the parents. This communication offers the parents the choice of having immunisation performed by their private medical practitioner, by an Assistant County Medical Officer at a Welfare Centre or School, or if resident in Shrewsbury by the Borough Medical Officer of Health at special sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, Murivance, and at the White House Clinic, Ditherington.

Upon receipt of the consent form, arrangements are made for immunisation of the infant on attaining the age of eight months.

If the parents do not return the consent form duly completed, a further communication is despatched to them on the day prior to the infant's first birthday, in the form of a birthday greeting card, stressing the value of immunisation. Every advantage is taken by Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the course of their duties at Welfare Centres, and by the latter in the course of their domiciliary visits, of advising immunisation for those children who have not been dealt with.

The following tables give particulars of children who were immunised under the various arrangements in the County during the year 1948 :—

Children immunised in the County of Salop between 1st January and 4th July, 1948

Arrangements made by	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total	Re-inoculations
County Council	1307	157	1464	742
Borough of Shrewsbury	258	19	277	56
Other Districts in the County	284	44	328	12
Total	1849	220	206	810

Children immunised in the County of Salop between 5th July and 31st December, 1948

Immunisation carried out by	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total	Re-inoculations
County Council Medical Officers and the Medical Officer of Health for Shrewsbury	1517	142	1659	836
General Medical Practitioners	806	51	857	172
Total	2323	193	2516	1008

Total Children immunised in the County of Salop during 1948

Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total	Re-inoculations
4172	413	4585	1818

Between 5th July, 1948, the date of coming into operation of the County Council's Scheme under the National Health Service Act, and the 31st December, 1948, a total of 2,323 children under the age of five years were immunised as compared with a total of 1,849 children in the same age group immunised between the 1st January and the 4th July, 1948, under the old arrangements.

The number of "under fives" actually immunised during the year was 4,172, a percentage of 80.92 of the live births ; and it is interesting to record that, between the 5th July, and the 31st December, 34.7% of the total pre-school children immunised were dealt with by General Medical Practitioners in contrast to 15.3% of such children between the 1st January and the 4th July.

The position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in the County of Salop on the 31st December, 1948, may be summarised as follows : 51.33 per cent. of children under five years of age had been immunised, and 67.48 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, giving a total, for all children under the age of fifteen years, of 61.49 per cent.

The table on page 31 sets out in detail the numbers of children under fifteen years of age dealt with in the individual Districts in the County during the years 1947 and 1948, and the percentages of those in each District, who have at some time been rendered immune to Diphtheria—bearing in mind that immunity is a relative term.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics for Individual Districts in the County during 1947 and 1948

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Number Immunised during 1947			Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1947			Number Immunised during 1948			Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1948		
		Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	0—15 yrs. of age	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	0—15 yrs. of age
North-West Combined Districts	Ellesmere Urban	32	3	35	58	90	79	37	8	45	64	67	66
	Ellesmere Rural	44	4	48	46	93	78	108	40	148	52	81	73
	Oswestry Borough	96	18	114	46	97	79	179	46	225	49	88	71
	Oswestry Rural	208	9	217	52	98	82	250	33	283	53	93	79
	Wem Urban	43	9	52	63	75	70	29	2	31	64	93	81
	Wem Rural	113	4	117	41	73	61	116	20	136	39	56	49
	Whitchurch Urban	61	2	63	33	88	68	61	4	65	32	46	40
North-East Combined Districts	Dawley Urban	139	27	166	60	73	68	174	50	224	63	87	78
	Market Drayton Urban	73	5	78	47	89	73	119	8	127	45	94	73
	Drayton Rural	84	15	99	35	85	65	129	6	135	43	83	68
	Newport Urban	40	1	41	54	79	70	56	6	62	56	83	73
	Oakengates Urban	81	12	93	30	79	60	138	14	152	40	51	47
	Shifnal Rural	79	11	90	37	78	62	175	5	180	50	46	48
	Wellington Urban	110	4	114	35	86	67	148	12	160	36	62	53
South-West Combined Districts	Wellington Rural	293	26	319	51	89	75	352	38	390	50	85	71
	Atcham Rural	327	31	358	65	95	84	399	13	412	65	40	49
	Bishop's Castle Borough	20	1	21	52	95	78	29	—	29	64	64	64
	Church Stretton Urban	40	4	44	73	90	84	34	1	35	62	34	41
	Clun Rural	140	7	147	62	90	79	197	12	209	56	43	48
	Wenlock Borough	166	27	193	52	95	79	251	10	261	47	39	42
	Ludlow Borough	108	24	132	68	90	82	117	7	124	74	64	68
Bridgnorth	Ludlow Rural	172	19	191	57	90	78	211	41	252	56	49	51
	Bridgnorth Borough	68	5	73	44	58	53	99	7	106	54	71	65
Shrewsbury	Bridgnorth Rural	159	10	169	45	73	63	169	5	174	49	74	65
	Shrewsbury Borough	469	46	515	51	91	77	595	25	620	55	76	68
WHOLE COUNTY	.. .. .	3165	324	3489	49.3	87.3	73.2	4172	413	4585	51.33	67.48	61.49

Calculations based on the immunisation records which passed to the County Council from the District Councils, upon the latter ceasing to be responsible for the compilation of statistics relating to Diphtheria Immunisation, show that the percentage of immunised children in the County of Salop at 31st December rose in respect of the under 5 group from 49.3% in 1947 to 51.33% in 1948, but that in the case of children of compulsory school age there was a fall from 87.3% in 1947 to 67.48% in 1948. The percentages for 1948 must, however, be regarded as absolute minima, being based on the records actually received from the District Councils.

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign are demonstrated by the following statistics showing the incidence of Diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease in the County during the past thirteen years.

Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1936

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Notifications ..	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25	7	10	17	1
Deaths ..	20	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1	—	2	2	—

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out in each year since 1942 under the various schemes which have been in force from time to time.

The total number of children immunised during 1948, namely 3,980, compares favourably with the number immunised during 1947, namely 2,276.

Children immunised in the County since, and inclusive of, 1942

Year	Under County Council's Scheme			Under Scheme for Borough of Shrewsbury			Under District Councils' Schemes		
	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total
1942	2949	1525	4474	865	769	1634	2126	6016	8142
1943	3159	2729	5888	473	353	826	302	1487	1789
1944	2169	485	2654	483	103	586	431	107	538
1945	2509	472	2981	535	55	590	335	6	341
1946	2269	346	2615	533	62	595	604	138	742
1947	2087	189	2276	469	46	515	609	89	698
1948	3630	350	3980	258	19	277	284	44	328
TOTAL	18772	6096	24868	3616	1407	5023	4691	7887	12578

Propaganda.—A press publicity campaign took place during the months of November and December, 1948, but reliance has mainly been placed upon the endeavours of the Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors on all possible occasions to obtain the consent of the parents to the immunisation of their children.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

Prior to the 5th July, 1948, the County Council had not organised specific prophylactic measures against Whooping Cough, as immunisation on lines similar to those for Diphtheria is infinitely less reliable, and for that reason it has not so far been advocated in this County. Be that as it may, a demand from the public for this form of protection has sprung up in recent years, and consequently, in their proposals for an Immunisation Service under the National Health Service Act, the County Council included facilities for immunisation against Whooping Cough for those children whose parents make a specific request to have it carried out, but no efforts are made to influence them on the question of whether or not immunisation against this disease should be undertaken.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough in the period 5th July to the 31st December, 1948 :—

	Primary Immunisation		Re-inforcement	Total
	0—5	5—15		
At County Council Welfare Centres	114	5	1	120
By General Medical Practitioners	294	39	3	336
TOTAL	408	44	4	456

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council, as Local Health Authority may, and if directed by the Minister of Health must, make arrangements for :—

- (1) the prevention of illness ;
- (2) the care and after-care of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness.

Tuberculosis.—The Minister of Health has directed that arrangements for care and after-care shall be obligatory in the case of persons suffering from tuberculosis ; and the Council's Health Visitors, therefore, continue to work in close liaison with the Chest Physicians, exercising domiciliary supervision of all tuberculous persons, assisting with the many social problems which arise through the presence in the household of such persons, and securing the attendance of contacts for examination at the Chest Clinics.

Mental Illness or Defectiveness.—In so far as mental illness is concerned, patients normally resident in this County who are discharged from Shelton Hospital, receive initial domiciliary visits from the Psychiatric Social Worker of that Hospital, before being referred for supervision to the whole-time Health Visitors under the County Council's After-Care Scheme.

With regard to mental defectiveness, routine regular domiciliary supervision of defectives continues to be carried out by the Whole-time Health Visitors.

Other Types of Illness.—In the case of patients discharged from hospital, any necessary nursing care and attention is provided through the Council's Home Nursing Service and arrangements have been made by the Regional Hospital Board for particulars of all discharged hospital patients requiring after-care to be notified to the Local Health Authority.

Provision of Nursing Equipment.—The provision of nursing accessories forms an important part of the Council's Scheme, and all Home Nurses and Midwives hold a small supply of minor articles, such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups, which are available for issue on loan to patients being nursed at home.

Health Propaganda.—The County Council has continued to support the Central Council for Health Education, to whom they make an annual grant. The Central Council is a voluntary body whose activities were curtailed in March, 1948, following the reduction of the financial support given by the Ministry of Health, but although hampered by shortage of funds, the Council is useful as an organisation which can advise on methods of health education and provide propaganda material in the shape of leaflets, pamphlets, posters and educational films.

In a rural county with a widely dispersed population, mass propaganda methods, in the form of health weeks, exhibitions, and educational film displays, are difficult to organise for the county as a whole, and reliance has to be placed principally upon the individual approach.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, a Local Authority may arrange for domestic help for any person who is suffering from illness, an expectant mother, lying in, mentally defective, suffering from old age, or a child not over compulsory school age.

When the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, a Domestic Help Service was already in being in certain parts of the County, and four offices had then been opened—in Shrewsbury in January, 1947; in Church Stretton in October, 1947; in Ludlow in January, 1948; and in Wellington in April, 1948—and an additional office was opened at Oswestry in September. The Domestic Help Service is operated on behalf of the County Council by Mrs. Martin Wilson, County Organiser of the Women's Voluntary Services.

The table on page 35 shows the position of the Service on 31st December, 1948.

Domestic Help Centres on 31st December, 1948

Centre	Cases assisted	Home Helps		Wages		Insurance, Overalls, Rentals, etc.	Total Expenditure		Payments by Householders		Net Cost to County Council		Receipts as Percentage of Expenditure			
		Whole-time	Part-time	Whole-time	Part-time		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Church Stretton ..	28	2	2	£ 342 12 1	£ 58 10 9	£ 35 1 10	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	50.75%
Ludlow ..	35	4	—	620 18 10	23 5 3	71 17 5	436	4	8	221	16	2	214	8	6	50.75%
Oswestry ..	25	5	3	148 5 4	79 0 3	33 13 10	716	1	6	200	12	8	515	8	10	28.01%
Shrewsbury ..	181	14	11	1362 13 2	327 18 4	153 5 1	260	19	5	83	2	10	177	16	7	31.95%
Wellington ..	66	5	7	455 7 2	259 2 4	117 9 4	1843	16	7	707	10	2	1136	6	5	38.37%
							831	18	10	281	11	9	550	7	1	33.84%
TOTAL ..	335	30	23	2929 16 7	747 16 11	411 7 6	4089	1	0	1494	13	7	2594	7	5	36.55%

Charges made to Householders.—A charge of 1/8d. per hour is made to the householder for the services of a “Home Help,” but assessment of ability to pay is made in accordance with the Scale of Assessment recommended by the Local Authority Associations.

Each Centre is operated by a voluntary worker of the Women’s Voluntary Services (except in Shrewsbury where an officer of the County Council is employed), who is responsible for the assessment of ability to pay and the collection of charges.

Conditions of Employment of Domestic Helps.—The following are the conditions of service for “Home Helps” employed in the Domestic Help Service of the County Council :—

1.—**Whole-time** :—

Wages : £3 3s. 0d. per week during the first year of employment, and
£3 10s. 0d. per week during subsequent years.

Hours of Employment : 8-30 a.m. to 5-30 p.m.—from Monday to Friday.
8-30 a.m. to 1 p.m.—on Saturday.

A normal working week consists of 42 hours, but employment outside the hours specified above is paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half from Mondays to Fridays, and at double the normal rate during the week-ends.

Holidays : One week’s holiday with pay is allowed during the first year after six months’ service, and two weeks with pay in subsequent years. In addition six recognised public holidays, or their equivalent, are granted.

Sick Pay : First year : One month on full pay—after two months’ service.
One month on full pay and two months on half-pay after four months’ service.
Subsequent years : Two months’ full pay and two months’ half pay.

Travelling : ’Bus fares between local office and place of employment, or a bicycle allowance of 5/- per month.

2.—**Part-time** :—

Wages : 10/- per week retaining fee, plus
1/6d. per hour for all time worked.
Overtime is paid as for a whole-time worker.

Travelling : As for a whole-time worker.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

At the beginning of the year, the County Council maintained at the County Council Hospital, Cross Houses, four Motor Ambulances which—together with a “Utilecon” and a Staff Van which were occasionally used as ambulances—were available for general County purposes. The ambulance service operated by the County Council conveyed 2,099 patients, and travelled a distance of 35,942 miles between the 1st January and the 4th July, inclusive.

In addition, other ambulances were provided by various Local Authorities and voluntary bodies, and particulars of the facilities available within the County at the beginning of the year were as set out below :—

	Vehicles			
County Council	6
Local Authorities	7
Voluntary Hospitals	3
Other voluntary bodies	10
Collieries	2
Private enterprise	1
				—
				29
				—

In preparation for the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, the County Council secured delivery of three new ambulances during the first three months of the year, and were thus in a position to lend three vehicles to certain County Districts where an Ambulance Service was already in operation, namely, Bishop's Castle Borough, Whitchurch Urban District and Districts covered by the East Shropshire Joint Ambulance Committee.

Of the various ambulances, other than those owned by the County Council, which had operated within the County before the 5th of July, only eleven were available for transfer to the County Ambulance Service ; and these—together with the nine vehicles then owned by the Council, and a new Austin ambulance presented to the Council by the Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee—raised the establishment of vehicles to a total of twenty-one. Between the 5th July and the 31st December, however, one new Bedford ambulance, one new sitting-case car, and two second-hand cars were secured by the County Council ; and the table below shows the distribution of the vehicles at the end of the year, together with that which is proposed when the authorised establishment of vehicles has been reached :—

Establishment of Ambulances and Sitting-case Cars

Ambulance Depot	On 31st December, 1948			Authorised Establishment		
	Ambulances		Cars	Ambulances		Cars
	Operational	Reserve		Operational	Reserve	
Shrewsbury	5	1	4	12	—	5
Oswestry	2	1	—	2	1	1
Whitchurch	1	1	—	1	1	—
Market Drayton	1	—	—	1	1	—
Donnington	4	—	—	4	1	1
Wenlock	1	—	—	1	1	—
Bridgnorth	1	—	—	1	1	—
Ludlow	2	—	—	2	1	1
Bishop's Castle	1	—	—	1	1	—
TOTAL	18	3	4	25	8	8

As the number of sitting cases requiring conveyance exceeded all expectations it is fortunate that, in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining new sitting-case cars, an arrangement had been made in the Ambulance Scheme of the County Council for the Women's Voluntary Services to operate a sitting-case car service on behalf of the County Council until the authorised establishment of vehicles has been reached.

From the 5th July to the 31st December, 1948, the number of patients conveyed by the County Council Ambulance Service and the distance which the vehicles travelled are shown in the table below :—

Patients Conveyed, and Distances Travelled, by Ambulance Service, 5th July to 31st December, 1948

Vehicles at 31st December	Calls	Patients Carried	Emergency Calls (included in Column 2)	Total Mileage
County Council—Ambulances... 21	3705	4352	268	126269
Cars ... 4	576	912	1	32276
Women's Voluntary Service Cars ...	1044	1205	—	38888
TOTAL	5325	6469	269	197433

The following table shows the progress which was made during the year in the development of the County Ambulance Service in accordance with the County Council's responsibilities under the National Health Service Act :—

Development of the Ambulance Service during 1948

	Personnel		Vehicles	
	Whole-time	Part-time	Ambulances	Cars
On 4th July ...	8	—	8	1
On 5th July ...	13	52	20	1
On 31st December	13	61	21	4

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Under Sections 49 to 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it is, briefly and broadly, the duty of the County Council, as Local Health Authority :—

- (1) to ascertain, and to initiate proceedings for the provision of care and treatment of, persons suffering from mental illness or defectiveness ; and
- (2) to make arrangements for the domiciliary care and after-care of such persons.

The duties of the Local Health Authority in connection with the Mental Health Service are the responsibility of the Health Committee, who, for the purposes of the discharge of their functions, have established a Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee, concerning the constitution of which the information given below is included in this Report at the request of the Minister of Health.

Constitution of Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee

The Chairman of the Council	} <i>ex-officio</i>
The Vice-Chairman of the Council	
The Chairman of the Health Committee	
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee	
Six members of the Health Committee	
Five members of the former Mental Deficiency Committee not on the Health Committee.	

In addition to the County Medical Officer and his Deputy, the staff employed in the Mental Health Service of the County Council during the year was as follows :—

Six Assistant County Medical Officers
 Petitioning Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts
 Principal Duly Authorised Officer (who is also Deputy Petitioning Officer)
 Deputy to Principal Duly Authorised Officer
 Superintendent Nursing Officer
 Three Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers
 Twenty-two Health Visitors.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

Duly Authorised Officers.—Responsibility for the initial care and removal to hospital of persons dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts rests with the “Duly Authorised Officers,” and as the whole-time Health Visitors are responsible for the domiciliary supervision and care of mental defectives, it appeared that, being located in various centres throughout the County, the Health Visitors might well be employed as Duly Authorised Officers. It was decided, however, to appoint a Principal Duly Authorised Officer, who had had previous experience in the work and who would, therefore, be in a position to give guidance to the health visiting staff and deal with the more difficult cases. Experience showed, however, that this arrangement was not altogether satisfactory as, when an urgent case had to be dealt with, the medical practitioner concerned was often unable to make contact with the appropriate Health Visitor. For that reason a male member of the staff of the County Health Department has been appointed a part-time Deputy to the Principal Duly Authorised Officer, and these two officers deal with practically all cases requiring removal to a Mental Hospital. As a consequence, the number of Health Visitors required to act as Duly Authorised Officers has been substantially reduced, and those remaining on the “Supplementary List” of such officers are now rarely required to act in that capacity.

Work undertaken by Duly Authorised Officers.—Particulars of the cases dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts by the Duly Authorised Officers between the 5th July and the 31st December, 1948, are given below :—

	M.	F.	Total
(a) Certified under Lunacy Act, 1890	29	31	60
(b) Detained under “Three Day” Order	2	1	3
(c) Detained under “Fourteen Day” Order	1	—	1
(d) Voluntary Patients	7	7	14
(e) Temporary Patients	2	7	9
TOTAL	41	46	87

Eight of the 14 voluntary patients shown in the table above were initially admitted to hospital under a "Three-Day" Order issued by a Duly Authorised Officer, but having subsequently applied for admission as voluntary patients they were accepted as such.

In addition to the 87 cases shown in the table, 10 alleged cases of unsound mind were brought to the notice of the Duly Authorised Officers. These were investigated, with the following results :—

In 2 cases arrangements were made for attendance at a Psychiatric Clinic ;
in 6 cases the Duly Authorised Officer decided that no action was required ; and
in 2 cases the Justice of the Peace decided not to issue a Reception Order.

After-Care.—The Minister of Health has stated that, in order to secure proper after-care for persons who have received in-patient treatment for mental illness, there must be co-operation between the officers of the Regional Hospital Boards and those of the Local Health Authority, and arrangements have, therefore, been made, through Dr. Brooks, Medical Superintendent of Shelton Hospital, whereby patients whose homes are in this County will, on discharge, receive initial domiciliary visits from the Psychiatric Social Worker on the staff of the Shelton Hospital, before being referred for supervision to the whole-time Health Visitors of the County Council for purposes of After-Care.

Ambulance Service.—All Duly Authorised Officers have authority to call upon the County Ambulance Service as and when required, to assist them in transferring mental patients to hospital.

Use has also, since 5th July, 1948, been made of the County Ambulance Service in connection with the conveyance to Institutions for Mental Defectives of mentally defective persons resident in Shropshire.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

The following table indicates the numbers of mental defectives maintained in Institutions by the County Council on 4th July, 1948, subsequent to which date the responsibility for providing institutional accommodation for such defectives became the duty of the Regional Hospital Boards :—

	Male	Female	Total
In The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge ..	18	20	38
In Certified Institutions outside Shropshire ..	86	87	173
TOTAL	104	107	211

Work undertaken in the Community in connection with Mental Defectives

Ascertainment.—Particulars of the mental defectives ascertained during the year ended 31st December, 1948, are given below :—

	Male	Female	Total
Cases reported by Local Education Authority :			
(a) Under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act ..	14	6	20
(b) Under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act ..	8	5	13
Other cases	3	4	7
TOTAL	25	15	40

Waiting List for Institutional Accommodation.—On the 31st December, 1948, there were 110 Shropshire mental defectives awaiting vacancies in Institutions, particulars of whom are set out below :—

Category	Age	Males	Females	Total
Feeble-minded	0—16	2	—	2
	16—30	7	3	10
	30—40	3	3	6
	40—50	1	10	11
	50—60	4	4	8
	60—70	1	7	8
	70—100	3	—	3
		21	27	48
Imbeciles ..	0—16	13 (2 Cot)	7 (1 Cot)	20 (3 Cot)
	16—30	6	4	10
	30—40	2	2	4
	40—50	1	4	5
	50—60	2	2	4
	60—70	1	1	2
	70—100	—	2	2
		25 (2 Cot)	22 (1 Cot)	47 (3 Cot)
Idiots	0—16	8 (7 Cot)	4 (2 Cot)	12 (9 Cot)
	16—30	1	—	1
	30—40	1 (1 Cot)	—	1 (1 Cot)
	40—50	1 (1 Cot)	—	1 (1 Cot)
	50—60	—	—	—
	60—70	—	—	—
	70—100	—	—	—
		11 (9 Cot)	4 (2 Cot)	15 (11 Cot)
TOTAL ..	All ages ..	57 (11 Cot)	53 (3 Cot)	110 (14 Cot)

Mental Defectives under Guardianship.—On the 31st December, 1948, there were 17 defectives (3 males and 14 females) under guardianship care, 7 of whom (2 males and 5 females) resided in Shropshire and were supervised by the Health Visitors and visited at approximately quarterly intervals by the Assistant Medical Officers.

The arrangements made for the lay and medical supervision of the remaining 10 cases (1 male and 9 females) who reside outside Shropshire, are set out below :—

	Male	Female	Total
By the National Association for Mental Health ..	1	4	5
By the Brighton Guardianship Society	—	1	1
By other Local Health Authorities	—	4	4
TOTAL	1	9	10

The County Council were, on the 31st December, 1948, paying allowances towards the cost of the maintenance of 14 of the defectives (2 males and 12 females) under guardianship care.

Mental Defectives under supervision.—The following are particulars of the mental defectives under statutory and voluntary supervision on the 31st December, 1947, and on the 31st December, 1948 :—

			Males				Females				Total			
			Under 16		Over 16		Under 16		Over 16					
			1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948		
Under Statutory supervision	..	..	50	47	106	114	32	31	103	106	291	298
Under Voluntary supervision	..	..	2	2	346	323	1	1	241	213	590	539
TOTAL			52	49	452	437	33	32	344	319	881	837

In addition to the cases mentioned above, the County Council's Health Visitors were, on the 31st December, 1948, undertaking on behalf of various Regional Hospital Boards, the supervision of 23 mental defectives who were on licence from Institutions to the care of persons residing in Shropshire.

School Cases.—Since the coming into operation of the Education Act, 1944, children who were educable only in special schools and were for that reason certified as Mental Defectives are now included, much more appropriately, in the category of "Educationally Subnormal Pupils," who, under the School Health and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1945, are defined as follows :

"Pupils who, by reason of limited ability or other conditions resulting in educational retardation, require some specialised form of education, wholly or partly in substitution for the education normally given in ordinary schools."

The following are particulars of Educationally Subnormal children under the jurisdiction of the Salop Education Authority on 31st December, 1948 :

	Male	Female	Total
In Special Schools	47	4	51
Awaiting admission to Special Schools	11	16	27
Awaiting parental consent to admission to Special Schools ..	49	41	90
TOTAL	107	61	168

At the end of the year 1948 there were, in addition, 291 school children (193 boys and 98 girls) whose mental condition had been called in question.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES

The "break up of the Poor Law" commenced on 1st April, 1930, with the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1929, when the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council became responsible for the discharge of the functions previously exercised by the Boards of Guardians ; but it was not until 5th July, 1948, when the National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation that this "break up" was completed, and assistance of necessitous persons ceased to be a function of County and County Borough Councils and became that of the newly constituted National Assistance Board.

With the transfer on 5th July, 1948, of responsibility for hospital services to the Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees, Public Assistance Institutions in which the major portion of the accommodation was occupied by the sick came under the administration of Hospital Management Committees, while those institutions in which the accommodation was principally occupied by the non-sick cases became the administrative responsibility of the newly established Welfare Department of the County Council. By reciprocal arrangement, however, the Authority which became in this way responsible for the administration of a "mixed" institution placed at the disposal of the other Authority the accommodation occupied by the type of case for which the latter were responsible.

It is of interest to note that, from the appointed day, persons provided with residential accommodation by the Welfare Committee of the County Council became entitled to the Home Nursing Services provided by the Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL

Administration of the County Council Hospital, Cross Houses, was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948, and the following statistics relate only to the work carried out at the Hospital until that date :—

Cases treated in the County Council Hospital

		Men	Women	Maternity	Children		Total
					Under 5	5—16	
Cases (1st January)	..	38	28	29	9	8	112
Admissions	.. ..	330	308	431	113	385	1567
Discharges	.. ..	291	276	428	108	373	1476
Deaths	.. ..	39	23	—	4	2	68
Cases (4th July)	..	38	37	32	10	18	135

For the purposes of the above table, babies born in the hospital, 9 of whom died, are not included, but are referred to overleaf.

Average Number of Beds Occupied

		Men	Women	Maternity	Children		All Cases
					Under 5	5—16	
Average	.. ..	30	45	28	14	20	133
Highest	.. ..	38	54	37	18	26	155
Lowest	.. ..	21	28	21	9	8	112

Midwifery.—No maternal deaths occurred in the Hospital during the period under review.

The number of women confined in the County Council Hospital during the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948, was 431.

The number of live babies born was 422 (of which 406 were single and 8 twin births) and there were 16 still-births.

An Ante-natal Clinic was held every Thursday morning in Shrewsbury where booked cases attended periodically for examination and advice. The average number in attendance was 60 per session.

Maternity Cases—Particulars of Births and Deaths

Period	Confinements	Births			Deaths		
		Live	Still	Total	Mother	Child	Total
1st January to 4th July . .	431	422	16	438	—	9	9

Of the 9 babies who died, the causes of death were as follows : Atelectasis 3 ; Congenital Heart Disease 1 ; Prematurity 5.

Other Work.—The number of surgical operations (major and minor) was 607 (including 365 Tonsillectomy cases, operated on by Surgeons from the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury).

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME

For a period of approximately thirty years prior to the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, Shropshire patients in need of orthopaedic treatment were sent to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, and the appropriate Committee (Health or Education) of the County Council accepted financial responsibility for the cost of such treatment. Combined with the arrangements for hospital treatment was a scheme for the provision of after-care, and orthopaedic clinics were held regularly by the Hospital Staff in various parts of the County, mainly at Child Welfare Centres. These clinics were attended not only by patients discharged from hospital, but also by patients suffering from conditions not sufficiently severe to necessitate in-patient treatment. The treatment given at these clinics was, therefore, both preventive and curative, and toward the cost of the treatment in this way provided the County Council made an annual grant.

Since the “appointed day” in July, 1948, the County Council has been relieved of all financial responsibility for both in-patients and out-patients, but the arrangements in existence at that time continue to operate very much as before, although they now form part of the Hospital and Specialist Services for the provision of which the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board is responsible.

As a result of the operation of the new Act, however, a somewhat anomalous position has arisen in that the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital to which in-patients are admitted for treatment is administered by the Group 27 Hospital Management Committee, while out-patients are sent to After-Care Clinics administered by the Hospital Management Committee in whose area these Clinics are held. The professional and nursing staff at these Clinics is provided, however, in almost all instances by the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, and it can be said, therefore, that so far there has been little change in this respect since the “appointed day.”

After-Care Clinics continue to be held twice weekly at Shrewsbury ; weekly at Oswestry and Wellington ; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Newport, Oakengates, Wem and Whitchurch.

As a consequence of changes in the compilation of records following the transfer of functions, it is not possible to give information, formerly included in these reports, relating to attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics ; and the particulars given below relate only to patients treated under the County Council Scheme between 1st January and 4th July, 1948.

Cases admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital between 1st January and 4th July, 1948

Disease	Under 3 years of age	3—16 years of age	Over 16 years of age	Total
Tuberculosis	—	8	12	20
Osteomyelitis	—	10	—	10
Injuries (bones and joints)	—	19	2	21
Congenital Defects and Deformities ..	4	18	1	23
Acquired Deformities	—	18	3	21
Other Defects	—	3	—	3
TOTAL	4	76	18	98
TOTAL FOR 1947	21	146	32	199

During the war years, the admission of County Council patients to the Orthopaedic Hospital was restricted as far as possible in order to make beds available for the treatment of war casualties. This, no doubt, accounts for the increase in the number of cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital immediately after the war under the various schemes of the County Council.

Particulars of the numbers of beds occupied are given in the table below. It should be noted, however, that as the Public Assistance Committee were, until May, 1938, responsible for the treatment of "Non-Tuberculous Adults" over sixteen years of age, the average number of beds occupied by this particular group has been given separately under that designation.

Beds occupied in Orthopaedic Hospital under the County Council Scheme

	Yearly Averages (five-year periods)					Individual Years		
	1921—25	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1946	1947	1948 (6 months)
Tuberculosis (all ages)	40	33	27	27	20	21	14	12
School Health,	14	13	11	17	13	31	28	23
Child Welfare	8	5	3	5	5	5	4	1
Non-Tuberculous Adults	—	—	—	7	4	5	4	3
TOTAL	62	51	41	56	42	62	50	39

The cost to the Council of hospital treatment of Orthopaedic cases under the various schemes is shown below :—

Cost of Treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital under the County Council Scheme

	Yearly Averages (five-year periods)					Individual Years		
	1921—25	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1946	1947	1948 (6 months)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tuberculosis	5068	4269	3122	3567	2795	3875	3681	1637
School Health	2198	1608	1323	1626	1823	5823	7353	2897
Child Welfare	1051	778	331	452	782	1028	760	136
Non-Tuberculous Adults ..	—	—	—	856	484	554	977	430
ANNUAL COST ..	8317	6655	4776	6501	5884	11280	12771	5100

Particulars of Cost of Orthopaedic Treatment since 1945

Service	Year	In-patient days	Cost per patient-day	Total Cost
Tuberculosis	1945	5501	s. 9/6	£ 2613
	1946	7138	10/10	3875
	1947	5206	14/1½	3681
	1948	2227*	14/8½	1637*
School Health	1945	5278	9/3	2441
	1946	10942	10/7½	5823
	1947	10505	14/-	7353
	1948	4139*	14/-	2897*
Child Welfare	1945	925	9/3	428
	1946	1938	10/7½	1028
	1947	1086	14/-	760
	1948	194*	14/-	136*
Non-Tuberculous Adults ..	1945	1103	7/4½	407
	1946	1402	8/10½	554
	1947	1628	12/-	977
	1948	717*	12/-	430*

*These figures apply only to the period from 1st January to 4th July, 1948.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Orphans and other children without suitable homes to which to return.—On the 31st December, 1945, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 225/45, dealing with arrangements for the care of unaccompanied children still billeted or otherwise accommodated in the reception areas, who had no homes, or only unsuitable homes, to which to return in the areas from which they had been evacuated.

The classes of evacuee children for whose future care arrangements had to be made were, broadly speaking, as follows :—

- (1) Children both of whose parents were dead ;
- (2) Children whose parents were untraceable ;
- (3) Children one of whose parents was dead, the remaining parent being unable to make satisfactory arrangements for the child's care ;
- (4) Children whose parents were not living together ;
- (5) Children who could not be returned because the family was inadequately housed.

The Ministry decided that, from the 1st April, 1946, District Councils should be relieved of their responsibilities in connection with the care of these children, and that these responsibilities should be transferred to the County and County Borough Councils from whose areas these children were originally evacuated.

The impracticability of Councils for evacuation areas directly discharging these responsibilities and duties made it necessary that the County and County Borough Councils for the reception areas should act as their agents. In Shropshire this work was carried out by the whole-time Health Visitors, and evacuees, whether officially or privately billeted, were visited once a quarter, while those who had left school and were in employment were subject to friendly supervision and were visited at least once every six months.

Finally, on 3rd June, 1948, Circular No. 85/48 was issued by the Ministry of Health, announcing that the Government Evacuation Scheme would cease to operate on 5th July, 1948, and that from that date the care of unaccompanied evacuee children would become the responsibility of the Children's Committee under the Children Act, 1948.

The following table shows the numbers of evacuee children in this County who were supervised by the whole-time Health Visitors from 1st April, 1946, until the "appointed day" in 1948 :—

Supervision of Evacuee Children—1st April, 1946, to 4th July, 1948

	Total	Officially Billeted	Privately Billeted	Over School Age
On 1st April, 1946	58	29	14	15
On 31st December, 1946 ..	45	22	8	15
On 31st December, 1947 ..	35	13	7	15
On 4th July, 1948	35	13	7	15

The following are the latest particulars relating to the 35 children under supervision on 4th July, 1948 :—

Supervision no longer necessary	13
Supervised as Child Life Protection Cases	7
Boarded-out by Children's Committee	11
Admitted to Residential School for Educationally Sub-normal Children ..	1
In Remand Home	1
Married	1
Joined H.M. Forces	1
	—
	35
	—

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The Children Act, 1948, which came into operation on the 5th July of that year, made radical changes in the law relating to the care of children “deprived of a normal home life”—which term, of course, includes Child Life Protection Cases.

Under the provisions of the Children Act, the care and supervision of Child Life Protection cases became the responsibility of the Children’s Committee, a statutory committee created under the new Act, but in this County the Health Committee continued to discharge these functions during 1948 pending the completion of the administrative arrangements for their transfer to the Children’s Committee.

Prior to 5th July, 1948, the Shrewsbury Borough Council, as an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, were responsible for the supervision of Child Life Protection cases within the Borough, but with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, these functions were transferred to the County Council. For that reason, the particulars given in the following table of Child Life Protection cases supervised in the County during the years 1942 to 1947 do not include those cases for whom the Shrewsbury Borough Council were responsible, whilst those for 1948 relate to the Child Life Protection cases in the County as a whole.

Child Life Protection Cases, 1942 to 1948

						1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	
<i>In Register</i>	..	..	on 1st January	..	..	103	92	93	76	52	30	26
			added during the year	..	..	32	21	23	19	12	14	70
<i>Removed from Register</i>	..		reached age of 9 years	..	..	10	8	10	11	6	8	—
			legally adopted	..	..	6	6	9	1	6	2	6
			left County	..	..	9	4	14	20	3	1	1
			removed to relatives	..	..	18	10	7	10	17	4	8
			died	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
			admitted to “Exempted” Home			—	—	—	—	2	3	6	
			removed to place of safety	..		—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
			no longer maintained for reward			—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
<i>In Register</i>	..	..	on 31st December	..	..	92	93	76	52	30	26	74
Increase or decrease during the year						..	—11	+1	—17	—24	—22	—4	+48

The figure of 70 new cases added to the Child Life Protection Register during 1948, included :—

- 7 Children under supervision in the Borough of Shrewsbury on 4th July, 1948 ;
- 32 Children over 9 years of age who, under the Children Act, again became subject to supervision ;
- 31 Children under 18 years of age who, under the Children Act, became subject to supervision for the first time.

The main effect of the Children Act, in its application to Child Life Protection cases, is to make the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, which previously applied only to children up to the age of nine years, applicable to all children not over compulsory school age who are maintained for reward by a person other than a parent, relative or guardian.

In the case of a child under supervision as a Child Life Protection case, the Children Act also provides for the continuance of such supervision until he attains the age of eighteen years if he remains in the care of the same foster-parents ; but a child over the age of compulsory school attendance who has left the care of the foster-parents by whom he was maintained when he attained school leaving age, ceases to be subject to supervision in his new home—even if he is under eighteen years of age.

NURSING HOMES

Registration.—Section 187 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requires the registration of all nursing homes, maternity and other, and the County Council, as Registration Authority, have power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases. In the past, exemption has been granted in the case of the following Institutions :—

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury ;
King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium, Shirlett ;
Lady Forester Hospitals, Broseley and Much Wenlock ;
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry ;
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury ;
Cottage Hospital, Market Drayton.

“Nursing Home,” as defined in the Public Health Act, 1936, does not include any hospital or other premises maintained or controlled by a Government Department ; and with the transfer of Hospitals to the Ministry of Health on 5th July, 1948, ten other hospitals, in addition to the seven named above, became automatically exempt from registration.

Two Nursing Homes were added to the register during 1948, two certificates of registration were cancelled, and one application for registration was refused.

The following are particulars of Nursing Homes registered at the beginning of 1948, and of those on the register at the end of the year :—

Registered Nursing Homes, 1948

	No. Registered	Cases provided for	Beds	Cots
On 1st January ..	9	General	101	2
	3	Maternity	15	—
	15	Maternity and General ..	188	2
TOTAL ..	27	—	304	4
On 31st December ..	3	General	20	—
	3	Maternity	10	—
	11	Maternity and General ..	71	—
TOTAL ..	17	—	101	—

Inspection.—Registered Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Superintendent Nursing Officer or her Assistants, and an effort is made to visit each Home once in each quarter. Ninety inspections were made during 1948.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

Responsibility for the Welfare of the Blind, formerly a duty of the Health Committee of the County Council under Section 2 of the Blind Persons Act, 1938, passed to the Welfare Committee of the Council on the coming into operation of the National Assistance Act, 1948, on the 5th July of that year.

Register of Blind Persons.—The number of persons on the Shropshire Register of Blind Persons on the 5th July, 1948, the date on which the Health Committee nominally ceased to be responsible for the welfare of the blind, was 458 as compared with 457 at the end of the previous year.

Examination of Applicants for Registration as Blind Persons.—The Health Committee continues to make arrangements for the examination by Ophthalmologists of applicants for registration as blind persons, and during the year ended 31st December, 1948, arrangements were made for the examination of 55 persons, of whom 53 were subsequently placed on the Shropshire Register of Blind Persons.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—The National Assistance Act, 1948, transferred the duty of providing financial assistance for necessitous blind persons from the County Council to the National Assistance Board, and the County Council therefore discontinued the payment of domiciliary assistance to needy blind persons on the 5th July, 1948.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1948, payment of domiciliary assistance amounted to £9,774 14s. 2d., of which £515 14s. 7d. was subsequently re-claimed from other Counties.

From 1st April to 4th July, 1948, the sum of £2,504 7s. 7d. was paid in domiciliary relief of the blind, of which £105 16s. 6d. was subsequently re-claimed from other Counties.

Home Workers.—The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind organises a Home Workers' Scheme in which, by arrangement with the County Council, Shropshire Home Workers are included, for whom, prior to 5th July, 1948, the Health Committee were responsible, both in the matter of welfare and augmentation of earnings.

On 4th July, 1948, the 22 Home Workers for Shropshire included in the Scheme, whose average earnings were £2 3s. 10d. per week, received augmentation from the County Council at an average rate of £1 17s. 11d. per week.

Responsibility for the welfare of these Workers and the augmentation of their earnings is now, of course, the concern of the Welfare Committee.

Shropshire Association for the Blind.—Three Home Teachers, seconded by the County Council for service with the Shropshire Association for the Blind, undertake the visiting of blind persons and, in addition to giving instruction in Braille, Moon and Handicrafts, also make arrangements for various social gatherings of blind persons. These functions which they formerly performed on behalf of the Health Committee have, since the 5th July, 1948, been performed by them on behalf of the Welfare Committee.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Dairy Herds.—The following information, which has been supplied by the Divisional Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, gives particulars of dairy herds in the County on 31st December, 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948 :—

					1945	1946	1947	1948
Tuberculin Tested Herds (Attested)	..	..	..	..	112	164	207	295
„ „ „ (not Attested)	..	..	..	..	94	105	143	147
Attested Herds (not Tuberculin Tested)	..	..	..	..	63	78	101	116
Accredited Herds	..	..	..	..	580	576	548	552
Total Numbers of Designated and Attested Herds				..	849	923	999	1110
Undesignated Herds	..	..	..	..	4100	3991	3907	4024
Total Numbers of Dairy Herds	..	..	..	..	4949	4914	4906	5134

During 1948, Designated and Attested Herds increased by 111 and represented 21.6 per cent. of the whole of the dairy herds in the County.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.—Under these Regulations, the County Council, as Licensing Authority, were responsible for the initial inspection of the farm premises of all milk producers applying for licences to produce either “Accredited” or “Tuberculin Tested” milk, and for the licensing and supervision of such premises.

During 1948, a total of 230 applications for Designated Milk licences (140 Tuberculin Tested and 90 Accredited) were received. The County Sanitary Inspector made 1,364 visits to dairy farms and the initial inspections of the premises of new applicants for Designated Milk licences involved 409 of the total visits.

On 31st December, 1948, a total of 994 licences for the production of Designated Milk (442 Tuberculin Tested and 552 Accredited) had been issued. In addition 31 Tuberculin Tested and 10 Accredited Milk producers held bottling licences.

The table below indicates the licensing position at the end of each year from 1934 to 1948 :—

Designated Milk Licences in force on 31st December, 1934—1948

Licences	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Tuberculin Tested	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111	177	206	269	350	442
Accredited	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652	620	580	576	548	552
TOTAL	29	410	553	578	652	760	750	743	761	763	797	786	845	898	994

The consistent increase in the numbers of Tuberculin Tested Milk licences and the corresponding decrease in the numbers of Accredited Milk licences during recent years were accounted for mainly by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin Tested standard.

Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milk.—Samples of milk from premises licensed for the production of Designated Milk were taken once a quarter, or more frequently when the results of examination of the samples were unsatisfactory; and the following table summarises the results of examination of Designated Milk and of milk obtained from producers “qualifying” for Designated Milk licences during the year 1948 :—

Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milk during 1948

Designation	Total Samples	Satisfactory	Percentage	Unsatisfactory	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested Milk	1737	1453	83·65%	284	16·35%
Accredited Milk ..	2533	1942	76·67%	591	23·33%
“Qualifying”	305	245	80·33%	60	19·67%
TOTAL ..	4575	3640	79·56%	935	20·44%

Disciplinary Action.—During 1948, the Milk (Special Designations) Committee considered the milk sampling records of 9 Designated Milk producers from whose premises three consecutive unsatisfactory milk samples had been obtained. Of these, 7 were producers of Accredited Milk and 2 were producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Warnings were issued to 4 Accredited Milk producers and the licences of 3 producers were revoked.

Of the Tuberculin Tested Milk producers, one was warned and the licence of one producer was suspended.

In addition, the case of a producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk, who had failed to remove from his herd animals which had re-acted to a “Tuberculin Test,” was considered by the Committee and his licence was revoked.

Examination for Hypochlorite Contamination.—The introduction of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1943, permitting the use of certain brands of Sodium Hypochlorite solutions for the sterilisation of dairy and milking utensils, raised the question of possible contamination of milk by the improper use of such solutions, or by the use of stronger solutions than those recommended by the Regulations. For the purpose of ascertaining possible contamination, arrangements were made for the examination of milk samples from producers licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. Those producers whose milk was found to be contaminated were visited and advised on the correct use of the sterilising solutions.

The following table summarises the results of samples taken during 1948 :—

Examination of Milk for Hypochlorite Contamination during 1948

Designation	Total Samples	Negative	Percentage	Positive	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested ..	257	256	99·61%	1	0·39%
Accredited	306	305	99·67%	1	0·33%
TOTAL ..	563	561	99·64%	2	0·36%

DEFENCE REGULATION 55.G

During 1944, restrictions on the sale of milk by retail, other than of certain grades, were imposed by the Ministry of Food, and for this purpose Defence Regulation 55.G came into operation. This Regulation, which has since been revoked, prohibited the sale by retail of milk which was not “Tuberculin Tested,” “Pasteurised” or otherwise “Heat-Treated,” or “Accredited,” in any area defined or specified as a prohibited area by the Minister of Food. No such area was ever specified, either in this County or in any other, and the main objects and requirements of the Regulation were, therefore, nowhere attained.

During 1948, a total of 163 samples were obtained from eight establishments approved by the Ministry of Food for the heat treatment of milk, and of these 159 samples were found to be satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

Wherever possible, approval of milk for use on school premises is restricted to that designated either as “Tuberculin Tested” or “Pasteurised.” Should one of these grades not be obtainable, approval is given to an “Accredited” milk ; but in the case of a few schools where milk even of the “Accredited” standard is unobtainable, approval is given to an undesignated milk, provided that samples of the milk comply with “Accredited” milk bacteriological standards, and that the premises and methods of production are reasonably satisfactory. These matters are investigated by the County Sanitary Inspector before approval is given, albeit with great reluctance, to the use of an undesignated milk on school premises.

On 5th November, 1947, a census was taken which showed that on that date there were 33,012 pupils in attendance at maintained schools in the County, and that 27,653, or 83·7 per cent. of these pupils received liquid milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme.

On 13th October, 1948, a similar census showed that, of the 33,895 pupils attending maintained schools in the County, 28,217, or 83·2 per cent., were obtaining liquid milk in school under the Milk in Schools Scheme.

The following are particulars of the numbers of School Departments in the County receiving milk and of the grades of milk supplied :—

Pasteurised Milk	199	Departments
Tuberculin Tested Milk	85	„
Accredited Milk	31	„
Undesignated Milk	14	„
TOTAL	329	

During 1948, dried milk was supplied to pupils at 5 schools, and at 2 schools no milk supply was available ; 14 schools were incorporated in the Milk in Schools Scheme for the first time.

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk Supplies.—Samples are obtained four times per year for bacteriological examination of those school milk supplies which are not derived directly from Designated Milk producers, whose milk is sampled regularly under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

The following table summarises the results of examination of samples taken during 1948 :—

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk Supplies

Designation	Total Samples	Satisfactory	Percentage	Unsatisfactory	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested	44	26	59·09%	18	40·91%
Pasteurised ..	72	65	90·28%	7	9·72%
Accredited ..	16	10	62·5%	6	37·5%
Undesignated ..	62	36	58·06%	26	41·94%
TOTAL ..	194	137	70·62%	57	29·38%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Tuberculous Milk.—The County Council are responsible for the enforcement of Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which prohibits the sale for human consumption of milk known to have been obtained from a cow or cows suffering from tuberculosis.

Cases reported by other Authorities.—During 1948, complaints in respect of 15 Shropshire herds which had been found to be giving milk containing living tubercle bacilli were received from Medical Officers of Health of Counties adjoining Shropshire. The herds were examined on behalf of the County Council by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and 13 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Designated and Ungraded Milk.—Samples of milk for biological examination are obtained at regular intervals by County Council Sampling Officers from Designated herds, and also, as opportunity offers, from retailers of undesignated milk.

The following is a summary of the samples taken during the year 1948 :—

Biological Examination of Designated and Ungraded Milk.

Designation	Total	Samples				Cows dealt with under Tuberculosis Order
		Negative		Positive		
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Tuberculin Tested ..	11	10	90·91%	1	9·09%	—
Accredited	663	638	96·23%	25	3·77%	30
Undesignated ..	98	97	98·98%	1	1·02%	—
TOTAL ..	772	745	96·50%	27	3·50%	30

School Milk Supplies.—Samples of milk supplied to schools are obtained twice yearly for biological examination for tubercle bacilli.

The following are the results of the examination of samples taken during 1948 :—

Biological Examination of School Milk Supplies

Designation	Total	Samples				Cows dealt with under Tuberculosis Order
		Negative		Positive		
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Tuberculin Tested ..	30	28	93·33%	2	6·67%	1
Accredited	11	11	100·00%	—	—	—
Undesignated ..	33	32	96·97%	1	3·03%	1
TOTAL ..	74	71	95·95%	3	4·05%	2

Undulant Fever.—During 1948, two cases of Undulant Fever were reported by one of the District Medical Officers of Health in this County. The herds of the milk producers concerned were examined by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and samples of milk were obtained from these herds and submitted for examination.

In the case of one of these herds, biological examination of the milk failed to produce evidence of the presence of *Brucella Abortus*, the organism responsible for contagious abortion in cows which, by milk borne infection, produces undulant fever in human beings.

In the remaining case, four animals were found to be infected, but at that time there was no law restricting the sale for human consumption of milk from animals suffering from contagious abortion. During the investigation, however, two of the infected cows became dry, and the milk from the other two cows was given to calves and not sold for human consumption.

Under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, District Medical Officers of Health now have powers to restrict, or prohibit, the sale of milk for human consumption from cows suffering from diseases, including contagious abortion, which are communicable through milk consumption to human beings.

Ice-cream.—Sampling of ice-cream is carried out by County Council Sampling Officers under the provisions of Section 68 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which empowers a Food and Drugs Authority, or a Local Authority, to procure samples of food and drugs for analysis or bacteriological examination.

The following is a summary of the results of the examination of 28 samples of ice-cream which were obtained by the Sampling Officers of the County Council during 1948:—

12 samples, or	42·85%	attained	Grade 1
6 ,, ,,	21·43%	,,	Grade 2
7 ,, ,,	25·00%	,,	Grade 3
3 ,, ,,	10·71%	,,	Grade 4

Sampling of Milk and other Foods.—Under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, a person who sells to the prejudice of the public, any food or drug which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded, is guilty of an offence ; and under Section 68 of the Act an authorised officer (Sampling Officer) of a Food and Drugs Authority may procure samples of food and drugs for analysis, with a view to ensuring that the requirements of Section 3 are being complied with.

During 1948, County Council Sampling Officers obtained 828 samples, of which 586 were of milk and 242 samples of Foods other than milk. The results of the examination of these samples are given in the table on page 57 of this report.

In 23 instances, legal proceedings were instituted which resulted in fines ranging from £1 1s. 0d. to £10, and totalling £82 3s. 0d., being imposed. In addition, the County Council obtained, against the producers concerned, costs totalling £60 2s. 0d.

Analysis of Food and Drug Samples taken in 1948

Description of Samples	Samples taken						
	Total	Formal	Informal	Formal		Informal	
				Genuine	Non-Genuine	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	586	538	48	395	143	27	21
Soyamalt	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Meat Pies	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Influenza Mixture	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Brawn	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Browning	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Sulphur Tablets	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Coffee	10	10	—	10	—	—	—
Bi-carbonate of Soda	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Vita Cup	5	5	—	5	—	—	—
Baking Powder	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bristling Paste	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Cake and Pudding Mixture	12	10	2	8	2	1	1
Vinegar	13	13	—	13	—	—	—
Ground Ginger	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gelatine	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
White Pepper	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Chocolate Spread Powder	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Cooking Compound	16	16	—	16	—	—	—
Jam	18	18	—	18	—	—	—
Maple Meat	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cocoa	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Potato Powder	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Mattee.. .. .	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Health and Liver Salt	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Honey	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Processed Peas	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	4	3	1	3	—	1	—
Lemonade Powder	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Crunchettes	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Semolina	20	17	3	14	3	1	2
Dried Fruit	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Beef Sausages	9	8	1	3	5	1	—
Malted Milk	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Custard Powder	3	2	1	2	—	1	—
Sausage Meat	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cereal	15	15	—	15	—	—	—
Salad Dressing	6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Mustard	5	5	—	5	—	—	—
Glycerine	5	5	—	5	—	—	—
Cordial	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Brandy	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cake Flour	13	6	7	5	1	5	2
Sauce	10	10	—	10	—	—	—
Macaroni	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Mutton Sausage	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Syrup of Figs	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cream of Magnesia	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Butter	6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Marmalade	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Sugar	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fish Cake	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	828	764	64	610	154	37	27

HOUSING

The administration of the various Housing Acts is the responsibility of the District Councils, the County Council's functions being mainly supervisory.

Housing Act, 1936.—Under Section 88 of the Act, it is a special duty of the County Council to have constant regard to the housing conditions of persons of the working classes within the Rural Districts, and to obtain information regarding conditions of, and progress in, housing through the medium of returns to be supplied at least annually by the Councils of the Districts.

Under Section 115 of this Act, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to the 1st January, 1939, to contribute to a Rural District Council £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house built to meet the requirements of the agricultural population ; but since that date the payments to be made by the County Council have been modified in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—This Act amended the law relating to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, under the Housing Act, 1936, and may be cited together with that Act, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946, as the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1946.

In respect of each new house completed after 31st December, 1939, and before 18th April, 1946, by the Council of a County District, this Act gives the Minister power to make under Section 1 an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. 0d. or £6 10s. 0d., or under Section 2 £10 for the same period ; and in the latter case the County Council are obliged by Section 7 of the Act to make a contribution of £1 per house for 40 years to the District Council. (In exceptional circumstances the Minister may increase his contributions under Section 2 from £10 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment of the County Council will be increased by a proportionate amount.)

Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.—Under Section 2 of this Act, the Minister of Health may, upon application by a Local Housing Authority, make to that Authority an annual payment of £16 10s. 0d. for 60 years towards the cost of each new house completed by them after 18th April, 1946.

Under Section 3 of the Act, the Minister is empowered to contribute to a Local Housing Authority £25 10s. 0d. per annum for 60 years towards the cost of each new house provided for the agricultural population ; and in such circumstances the County Council are required to contribute to the Local Authority concerned £1 10s. 0d. per house per annum for a like period.

As in the case of the Act of 1938, the Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, increase his contribution by a sum not exceeding £2, when the annual contribution of the County Council will be increased by a proportionate amount.

Section 10 of the Act enables the Minister to increase any Exchequer contributions payable by him under the Act of 1938 in respect of houses completed during the war years, especially those erected under the War Emergency Housing programme for agricultural workers, to the equivalent of contributions payable by him under Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of 1946 and for like periods. In such circumstances, the contributions payable by the County Council under the Act of 1938 are increased from £1 for 40 years to £1 10s. 0d. for 60 years.

Grants paid by the County Council under Housing Acts, 1936—1946

District	Houses Eligible for Grants	County Council Grants to 31st March, 1948		
		£	s.	d.
Atcham Rural ..	61	421	10	0
Bridgnorth Rural ..	16	90	0	0
Clun Rural ..	52	521	10	0
Drayton Rural ..	62	444	10	0
Ellesmere Rural ..	68	686	0	0
Ludlow Rural ..	18	96	0	0
Oswestry Rural ..	28	262	0	0
Shifnal Rural ..	4	24	0	0
Wellington Rural ..	50	510	0	0
Wenlock Borough	10	81	0	0
TOTAL ..	369	3136	10	0

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Health Act, 1936.—The table on page 61 gives particulars of the grants which have been paid or promised by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It will be noted that up to the end of 1948 grants were approved up to a possible total of £48,123 towards the capital cost of new schemes, the actual or estimated cost of which amounted to a total of £149,514.

No new applications for the payments of grants by the County Council under this Section were received from Local Authorities during 1948.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Under this Act, a sum of £15,000,000 was placed at the disposal of the Minister of Health to assist Local Authorities in the provision or improvement of water supplies and sewerage facilities in rural areas.

Where the Minister undertakes to make contributions towards the expenses incurred by Local Authorities in the provision of water supplies or sewerage facilities, the County Council is required, by Section 2 of the Act, to contribute also towards the cost of these services.

Particulars of grants in respect of water supply schemes, which were promised by the County Council to District Councils under this Act up to the end of 1948 are given below :—

Water Supply Schemes—Grants promised by the County Council (to end of 1948)

District	Scheme	Date of Approval	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant	County Council Grant	
			Properties	Inhabitants			Maximum Annual Grant	Period of Payment
Atcham Rural	West Atcham and Pimhill	17/5/47	2,209	11,444	£108,268	£22,500	£1,070	30 years
Bridgnorth Rural	Claverley	17/5/47	243	972	14,040	1,500	187/10/0	12 years
Clun Rural	Clungunford and Aston-on-Clun	25/1/47	110	393	13,000	1,500	71/7/6	30 years

Particulars of water supply schemes in respect of which applications for grants were received from District Councils up to the end of 1948, but upon which the County Council had not then made any decision, are given in the table on page 62.

Water Act, 1945—Under Section 14 of the Water Act, 1945, the Minister of Health is empowered to make an order prohibiting, in any specified area, the abstraction of underground water, except in the case of domestic wells or of any well or bore expressly authorised by Parliament.

An Order—The Stafford Area (Conservation of Water) Order, 1948,”—made by the Minister of Health under this Section of the Act, came into operation on the 1st November of that year, the object of which was to control the abstraction of underground water in areas in Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and that portion of Shropshire included in the basin of the River Worfe—namely, the Borough of Bridgnorth, Shifnal Rural District, a small part of the Wellington Rural District and the north-eastern portion of the Bridgnorth Rural District.

Another Order made under this Section of the Act—the “Cheshire and North Shropshire Area (Conservation of Water) Order, 1948”—has been approved by the Minister of Health. The areas in Shropshire to which the order applies comprise practically the whole of the northern part of the County and include the Borough of Shrewsbury and Wellington and Oakengates Urban Districts, but not the Borough of Oswestry.

Water Supply Schemes—Grants paid or promised by the County Council

District	Scheme	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Esti- mated Cost	Ministry Grant	Loan		Annual Charges		County Council Grant				
			Houses	Inhab- itants			Author- ised	Period (Yrs.)	Loan	Main- tenance	Basis	Max- imum	Paid to 31/12/48		
Atcham R.	Pimhill ..	4/5/35	288	1,152	£ 16,300	£ 2,500	£ 14,820	30	£ —	£ —	50% annual deficit	£ 6,675	£ 2,340		
	West Atcham ..	2/5/36	1,876	7,596	75,100	15,000	1,480 57,297	15 30	4,285	700	„	24,000	7,300		
Bridgnorth R.	Stottesdon ..	6/11/37	28	100	2,660	250	3,100	30	153	50	Block Grant	250	250		
	Kinlet ..	6/11/37	27	100	1,350	150			48	30	„	150	150		
Clun R.	Bucknell ..	27/7/35	72	280	2,915	200	—	25	169	20	50% annual deficit	885	99		
	Worthen and Brockton ..	1/5/37	88	350	4,500	400	4,100	30	—	—	„	1,245	456		
Drayton R.	Kempton ..	1/2/36	31	110	2,200	250	1,650	30	—	—	Block Grant	300	300		
	*Wentnor Norbury Myndtown }	4/2/39	50	190	3,500	75	—	30	188	15	15% annual deficit	—	*		
Drayton R.	Woore ..	3/11/34	137	524	4,080	—	3,655 425	30 25	189	378	50% annual deficit	885	363		
	Hodnet ..	4/5/35	118	400	3,887 (Actual)	450	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	900	900		
Ludlow R.	Ightfield ..	7/11/36	119	468	6,550	75	6,475	30	—	—	50% annual deficit	3,179	993		
	Norton-in-Hales	24/7/37	67	200	1,970	—	1,505	30	106	127	„	1,656	423		
Oswestry R.	Clee Hill ..	6/11/37	511	1,930	5,516	—	5,516	30	317	108	33½% annual deficit	1,837	554		
	Weston Rhyn ..	2/2/35	—	—	900	150	750	30	58	—	Block Grant	150	150		
Wellington R.	Llanymynech ..	2/11/35	93	372	8,500	1,850	—	—	—	—	„	1,850	1,850		
	Nantmawr ..	7/11/36	27	108	1,268	—	1,160	30	68	5	50% annual deficit	639	213		
Wellington R.	Gronwen ..	7/11/36	10	40	437	—	373	30	23	2	„	225	48		
	Llyncllys ..	7/11/36	24	96	783	—	746	30	14	5	„	415	130		
Wellington R.	Selattyn (Ext'n)	7/11/36	1,186	4,744	1,748	—	1,748	30	92	277	„	2,032	541		
	Edgmond ..	2/11/35	200	800	5,350	850	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	850	850		
					£ 149,514									£ 48,123	£ 17,910

*Scheme postponed

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944

Water Supply Schemes submitted by District Councils up to the end of 1948, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R. ..	East and South-East Atcham	£151,000	For supplying seventeen parishes around Shrewsbury by a bulk supply from the Shrewsbury Corporation's Water Undertaking.
Bridgnorth R. ..	Alveley	1,645	For the improvement and extension of existing facilities.
	Worfield	13,500	For the extension of the Wolverhampton Corporation's water mains to Worfield.
	Low Level Areas	216,000	For the provision of piped water supplies from the Elan Aqueduct.
	High Level Areas	340,000	For supplying the High Level Areas of the Bridgnorth and Ludlow Rural Districts.
Clun R.	Clun Rural District	162,000	For supplying the greater part of the Rural District.
Drayton R. ..	Drayton Rural District	185,000	For the development of existing supplies and provision of new sources of supply.
	Hodnet, Ightfield and Moreton Saye	44,400	For the improvement and extension of existing piped supplies.
Ellesmere R. ..	Ellesmere Rural District	313,250	For the extension of existing supplies in the Oswestry Rural District to practically the whole of the Ellesmere Rural District.
Ludlow R. ..	Ludlow Rural District	168,700	For supplying practically the whole of the Ludlow Rural District.
	Bitterley	2,500	For the provision of a piped water supply for the village of Bitterley.
	Little Isle and Studley	2,300	For the extension of Clee Hill Water Supply to the adjacent hamlets of Little Isle and Studley.
Oswestry R. ..	Oswestry Rural District.	383,108	For extending and improving existing supplies.
Wellington R. ..	Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley	13,750	For connecting Shifnal Rural District's mains to augment supply to Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley.
	High Ercall	4,000	For supplementing existing supplies at High Ercall by Air Ministry boreholes.
	Kinnersley	4,020	For the extension to Kinnersley of water mains.
Wem R.	Wem Rural District	294,000	For the provision of piped water supplies through the whole of the Wem Rural District.
Ludlow B. ..	Ludlow	9,175	For the improvement of water supply facilities in Ludlow.
Wellington U. ..	Horton, Preston and Eyton-on-the-Weald Moors	5,000	For extending the Wellington Rural District main from Lilleshall to the Parishes of Preston and Eyton-on-the-Weald Moors.
Whitchurch U. ..	Whitchurch Urban District	66,350	For new source of supply to replace existing supply.
TOTAL ..		£2,379,698	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Public Health Act, 1936.—The table on page 64 gives particulars of grants, amounting to £21,051 at the end of 1948, which were paid by the County Council towards the cost of schemes approved under this Act, the total capital cost of which amounted to £98,162.

Bridgnorth Borough.

During 1948, an application for a County Council Grant under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was submitted by the Bridgnorth Borough Council in respect of an abridged scheme for improving sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in the Borough.

The estimated cost of the scheme was £62,000, towards which the County Council undertook to contribute 20% of the capital cost, not exceeding £12,400.

This scheme had originally been submitted for grant purposes under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, to the Minister of Health who ruled that it was ineligible for grant under that Act.

Dawley Urban District.

A scheme for the provision of sewerage facilities in the Dawley Urban District which was submitted by the Urban District Council for grant purposes under the Public Health Act and approved by the County Council in 1939, has been revised.

The new scheme, which is to be proceeded with in two parts, is estimated to cost approximately £80,000. The County Council had not by the end of 1948 made any decision in the matter of grant.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Particulars are given in the table on page 65 of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes submitted by District Councils up to the end of 1948 for grant purposes under this Act, but upon which the County Council had not made any decision in the matter of grant.

The Cleobury Mortimer Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme is the only sewerage scheme in respect of which the County Council had promised a grant under this Act at the end of 1948. Full particulars are as follows :—

District	Scheme	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant	County Council Grant Maximum Amount
		Properties	Inhabitants			
Ludlow Rural	Cleobury Mortimer	285	1,140	£22,330	£5,500	£4,201 (Lump Sum) (One quarter of net cost of scheme)

Public Health Act, 1936

Sewerage Schemes—Grants paid by the County Council (to end of 1948)

District	Scheme	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Capital Cost	Loan		Annual Charges		County Council Grant		
			Houses	Inhab- itants		Author- ised	Period (years)	Loan	Main- tenance	Basis	Maxi- mum amount prom- ised	Total amount paid
Wenlock R.	Broseley ..	4/2/39	540	2,200	£ 8,800	£ 8,800	30	£ 485	£ 200	15% Cost	£ 1,320	£ 1,320
Shifnal R.	Albrighton ..	4/11/44	783	2,800	13,077	10,805 669 154	30 15 10	641	120	25% „	3,269	3,269
Wellington R.	Ketley and Lawley ..	2/5/36	796	650	31,975	22,398	30	659	300	25% „	8,000	8,000
	Donnington and Muxton ..	4/2/39	388	1,552	18,460	600 17,204 666	60 30 15	1,028	100	20% „	3,692	3,692
	Donnington and Muxton (Extension)	28/10/39	—	—	9,000*	—	—	—	—	20% „	1,400	1,400
	Ditto ..	29/5/43	—	—	16,850	14,625 2,225	30 20	919	100	20% „	3,370	3,370
					£98,162						£21,051	£21,051

*An amount of £2,000 was contributed by the War Department towards the cost of this Scheme, thus reducing the capital cost to £7,000

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944

Sewerage Schemes submitted by District Councils up to the end of 1948, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R. ..	Cross Houses	£ 14,572	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities for the village of Cross Houses.
	Bayston Hill	58,470	For resewering the villages of Bayston Hill and Pulley.
Clun R.	Aston-on-Clun	15,500	For providing sewage disposal facilities and works in an area as yet unsewered.
	Clun Village	18,800	For extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Drayton R. ..	Hodnet	14,732	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Oswestry R. ..	Weston Rhyn	32,776	For the improvement of existing facilities and provision of new sewage disposal works in conjunction with Ceiriog Rural District Council.
	Morda	32,050	For the improvement of existing facilities.
Wellington R. ..	High Ercall	10,710	For the improvement and extension of existing facilities and purchase of Air Ministry sewage disposal works.
	Edgmond	55,760	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities for the village of Edgmond.
Church Stretton U.	All Stretton	18,950	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities and provision of new sewage disposal works.
Newport U. ..	Newport	41,000	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Oakengates U. ..	Oakengates	132,500	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Wenlock B. ..	Madeley	19,365	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities in an area which is as yet unsewered.
	TOTAL ..	£465,185	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY

In accordance with the decision of the Public Health and Housing Committee in December, 1943, that fuller information regarding the sanitary circumstances in the various County Districts, and in the County as a whole, should be made available to them, the District Medical Officers of Health have been requested annually to complete questionnaires relating to Water Supplies, Sewerage and Housing. The information supplied by the District Medical Officers of Health relative to the year 1948, with the corresponding figures for the previous year, has been summarised in tabular form on pages 66 and 67.

Housing—Summary Answers to Questionnaires.

Medical Officer and District	Popu- lation (1931) Census)	Houses in District		Fit		In need of Minor Repairs		For Reconditioning		For Demolition		For Replacement		Erected during†	
		1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Dr. Dickson. Bridgnorth B. Bridgnorth R.	5,295 12,616	1,764 3,488	— 3,488	\$1,474 730	— —	— 1,220	— —	— 1,160	— —	276 378	— —	\$500 625	— —	38 24	— 22
Dr. Evans. Oswestry B. Ellesmere U. Wem U. Whitchurch U. Ellesmere R. Oswestry R. Wem R.	9,961 1,872 2,255 6,174 6,684 16,569 10,273	2,982 604 662 1,924 \$1,830 4,387 2,905	3,078 650 710 1,941 1,836 4,470 2,947	2,732 174 412 \$900 \$710 72 907	2,310 261 475 \$958 750 2,030 1,007	561 284 172 \$674 \$550 243 25	368 319 160 \$616 510 1,789 1,371	350 30 25 \$150 \$320 473 982	150 30 25 \$150 \$320 207 493	250 70 50 \$200 \$250 444 76	250 40 50 \$200 \$250 444 76	300 100 80 \$233 \$300 — 150	300 54 80 \$233 300 500 501	Nil 9 Nil 17 \$2 — 16	102 46 47 28 4 83 43
Dr. Gregory. Bishop's Castle B. Ludlow B. Wenlock B. Church Stretton U. Atcham R. Chun R. Ludlow R.	1,352 5,823 14,149 2,398 19,576 10,673 14,511	396 1,590 4,437 724 5,333 2,910 3,930	399 1,638 4,502 749 5,464 2,927 3,970	— — * — — — \$351	— — * — — — \$476	— — * — — — \$308	— — * — — — \$437	— — * — — — \$307	— — * — — — \$2898	— — * — — — \$104	— — * — — — \$159	— — * — — — \$300	— — * — — — 300	— 6 65 34 33 30 11	3 48 65 25 131 17 40
Dr. Stewart. Dawley U. Market Drayton U. Newport U. Oakengates U. Wellington U. Drayton R. Shifnal R. Wellington R.	7,669 4,749 3,437 11,249 8,550 7,888 7,583 16,118	2,202 1,493 990 3,050 2,827 2,365 2,815 5,861	2,231 1,571 1,029 — 3,001 2,400 2,600 —	1,302 932 688 1,526 1,784 \$384 1,189 —	1,331 1,010 751 — 1,958 \$384 1,039 —	+239 380 72 159 372 \$960 681 —	+239 380 55 — 372 \$960 651 —	— 98 90 579 456 \$768 717 —	— 98 90 — 456 \$768 697 —	661 83 140 700 215 \$288 228 —	661 83 133 — 215 \$288 213 —	\$974 200 150 1,200 315 280 290 —	974 200 150 — 315 280 \$280 —	33 34 28 51 68 32 64 55	29 78 39 — 96 35 96 —
Dr. Symons. Shrewsbury B.	36,732	11,735	12,021	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$850	\$850	—	—	104	300

— Figures not received

\$ Estimated figures

† Includes reconditioning

* Figures not available until completion of Housing Surveys

† Includes permanent and temporary houses

Water and Sewage—Summary of Answers to Questionnaires.

Medical Officer and District	Houses in in District		Water Supplies		Sewage Disposal	
			Piped and Stand Pipe Supplies		Connected to Public Sewers	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Dr. Dickson.						
Bridgnorth Borough	1,764	—	1,752	—	1,696	—
Bridgnorth Rural	3,488	3,488	715	*604	450	450
Dr. Evans.						
Oswestry Borough	2,982	3,078	2,968	3,065	2,951	3,047
Ellesmere Urban	604	650	604	642	588	634
Wem Urban	662	710	660	706	627	676
Whitchurch Urban	1,924	1,941	1,870	1,903	1,800	1,833
Ellesmere Rural	1,830	1,836	372	372	Nil	Nil
Oswestry Rural	4,387	4,470	2,360	2,457	1,317	1,324
Wem Rural	2,905	2,947	163	197	Nil	Nil
Dr. Gregory.						
Bishop's Castle Borough	396	399	374	377	354	357
Ludlow Borough	1,590	1,638	1,586	1,634	1,557	1,605
Wenlock Borough	4,437	4,502	3,465	3,530	*2,104	*2,169
Church Stretton Urban	724	749	666	691	509	534
Atcham Rural	5,333	5,464	1,395	1,526	556	687
Clun Rural	2,910	2,927	1,430	1,447	—	—
Ludlow Rural	3,930	3,970	2,057	2,097	*461	*501
Dr. Stewart.						
Dawley Urban	2,202	2,231	2,186	2,186	842	916
Market Drayton Urban	1,493	1,571	1,490	1,568	1,322	1,400
Newport Urban	990	1,029	988	1,027	967	1,006
Oakengates Urban	3,050	—	3,050	—	2,474	—
Wellington Urban	2,827	3,001	2,810	2,984	2,788	2,962
Drayton Rural	2,365	2,400	916	946	61	61
Shifnal Rural	2,815	2,600	2,180	2,020	1,340	1,490
Wellington Rural	5,861	—	3,955	—	2,930	—
Dr. Symons.						
Shrewsbury Borough	11,735	12,021	*11,582	*11,864	11,302	11,564

— Figures not received.

*Approximate figures.

